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SS-12's, SS-23's Prepared for Destruction

LD121138 Moscow TASS in English 1131 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Saryozek (Kazakhstan) March 12 TASS—By TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev:

This place in the Kazakhstan steppe is destined to go down into the chronicle of nuclear disarmament. On these days trains carrying Soviet operational-tactical missiles OTR-22 and OTR-23 (SS-12, SS-23) are arriving in Saryozek, 200 kilometres north of Alma-Ata. These missiles were withdrawn from the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR in agreement with the governments of the above-mentioned countries.

Today a group of Soviet and foreign journalists from socialist countries who arrived here, were present during the unloading of the second train with missiles and transport means, which arrived from Waren (GDR). Already 21 missiles have been brought here. Another four trains from the GDR and Czechoslovakia are on their way to Saryozek. After the unloading the missiles were delivered to the place of their stockpiling where they will be kept until their destruction after the Soviet-American treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which was signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in Washington on December 8, 1987, is ratified by both sides and comes into force. Saryozek is the only place in the USSR where all the Soviet shorter-range missiles will be scrapped.

The practical measures being carried out by the Soviet Union in preparation for the physical elimination of the missiles are evidence of the Soviet leadership's serious and responsible approach to the resolution of the tasks involved in the elimination of nuclear weapons, strengthening international security and building up confidence between states. These measures are a manifestation of the goodwill and a constructive example designed to contribute to a further improvement of the international situation. They are also convincing evidence that even before the treaty comes into force, the USSR meets its commitments consistently and fairly.

Further on Withdrawn Missiles

LD121646 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Saryozek, Kazakhstan, March 12 TASS—TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev reports:

The train with shorter-range missiles, which were deployed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic, arrived here today. A group of Soviet journalists and correspondents from other socialist countries, which arrived in Saryozek, watched how the train was unloaded. Then they visited the site of their storage, where the missiles will be kept until their destruction following the ratification by both sides of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. Under the treaty, Saryozek will be the site for the elimination of all Soviet shorter-range missiles.

Giving clarifications to journalists, Major Sergey Gorkunov, who arrived with the train, noted that the USSR, demonstrating good will, got down unilaterally to fulfilling its obligations under the INF Treaty without waiting for its ratification.

"The missiles, which arrived today, were installed near the city of Waren in the territory of the German Democratic Republic within the framework of response measures to the deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in several West European countries", Major Gorkunov said. "The officers and men of our unit fully support the Soviet leadership's decision on the withdrawal of the missiles ahead of schedule. This is a modern and reliable weapon but we have no regrets for parting with it since it is done in the name of lofty and humane purposes. The principal task of the Soviet Army has always been the defence of our people's peaceful labour and the world without arms guarantees the best and most durable peace".

The 31-year-old officer said that his qualification was electrical engineer and in the event of demobilization from the Army he would always find a job in the national economy. "My fellow servicemen hold the same point of view", Major Gorkunov said in conclusion.

It is symbolical that Kazakhstan, which gained world renown as a spaceport from which spaceships soar into space for the peaceful exploration of space, has now been chosen as the place where military-oriented nuclear missiles will be destroyed. The missile-space technology, the brainchild of human genius, should serve the express purposes of peace and creation. This is the will of all sensible people on earth. This is the imperative of the time.

TV Shows Unloading

LD131805 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by television correspondent Viktor Gulkhovtsev]

[Excerpts] As has already been announced, the Soviet Government has decided to withdraw, as a gesture of goodwill, OTR-22 missiles from the territory of the GDR and Czechoslovakia in agreement with the governments of these states. This work has begun. Our correspondent Viktor Glukhovtsev brings a report from the scene of events.

[Glukhovtsev, over video of railway yard, rail cars, missile carriers, uniformed men, and journalists taking photographs of unloading operations] This is how Saryozek looks now, in springtime. It is here that, as was

written in the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, the first trains have arrived from the GDR. Twenty-one operational-tactical OTR-22 missiles—or SS-12 missiles, as they are known in the West—are in containers on rail flatcars. Unloading is now underway at the station: You can see a missile being mounted onto a self-propelled chassis. From here they will be taken into the steppe, to a special place where, in accordance with the treaty, they will be destroyed.

The installation, which was quite recently top secret, is today open to journalists. This particularly important event will be an achievement of glasnost for all people on earth. Here they are, these terrible missiles, packed up in containers. And although they are described as shorter-range missiles, they are capable of covering a distance of 1,000 km within minutes. [passage omitted]

The last tasks are being carried out at the missile operational base. [video shows missiles being mounted on vehicles, convoys moving along roads through snowy wastes.] A special team of missile troops, under the command of Major Mikhlov, is unloading the OTR-22's. Heavy vehicles are taking them away to their storage area. At the request of correspondents, the missile troops open up one container. Please, do have a look what the weapon now due for destruction looks like. [video shows correspondents looking on as environmental container top is lifted to reveal missile inside]

It is not far from Saryozek station to the missile operational base where the OTR-22's are to be stored for the time being, only 40 km. But behind this lies long years of seeking ways to a peaceful settlement, to destruction of nuclear weapons; behind this lies the people's efforts for a peaceful life and global good-neighborly relations. [video shows missiles in environmental containers being unloaded at railway yard from flat cars and being lifted by a mobile crane onto MAZ transporter-erector-launcher vehicles; one missile shown inside container on low-loader wheels]

USSR Presents Proposals at Geneva Talks

LD112054 Moscow TASS in English 2031 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva March 11 TASS—The delegations at the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on nuclear and space weapons met in plenary session here today. At the session the USSR delegation has presented a set of proposals in conjunction with the preparation of a draft memorandum on the understanding regarding the data base, which is an inalienable part of the future treaty on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive armaments.

Like the Soviet proposals on the protocols on inspections and procedures for eliminating the weapons, which were submitted earlier this week, the documents presented by the USSR delegation today are compiled in the form of a combined text in which the coincident elements in the sides' approaches to the memorandum on the understanding and also the divergencies that are remained for the present are reflected.

So, the Soviet side took a new important and constructive step at the negotiations, aimed at drafting, without losing time and in line with the instruction which was given to both delegations as a result of the talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow last February, the texts of all of the three afore-mentioned documents (protocols on inspections, on procedures for eliminating the weapons, and also the memorandum on the understanding) by the time of the regular Soviet-U.S. meeting at a minister level this March.

By submitting the specific proposals, which take into account in large measure the American side's approach and draw on the positive experience of preparing the INF Treaty, the Soviet side has reaffirmed its determination to get the tasks faced by the delegations accomplished—to prepare a set of documents on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive armaments provided the observance of and non-withdrawal from the ABM Treaty for signing at the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow in the first half of the current year.

A special group to address the verification issues, among them those involving the monitoring of mobile intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, long-range air- and sea-launched cruise missiles, also got down to work today on the initiative of the Soviet side within the framework of the negotiations on nuclear and space weapons.

Work is continued in the groups to get agreement on the draft protocols on inspections and on the procedures for eliminating the weapons.

Meetings within the framework of the group on space weapons were also held this week. Under the understanding reached at the Moscow talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the USSR delegation pursues a consistent line for working out an agreement on abiding by the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and on the non-withdrawal from it during the agreed-upon term on the basis of the decisions on this score, which are formulated in the joint statement of Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan of December 10, 1987.

Bovin Laments NATO Stance on Arms Issues

PM111427 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Bovin "Political Observer's Opinion": "Disarmament or Arms Upgrading"]

[Text] The NATO Council's March session was held at a noteworthy time for the world community. An unstable equilibrium has taken shape between hopelessness and

hope, between dangers and the opportunities for avoiding them. On the one hand, the irrationality, senselessness, and destructiveness of the arms race have become so obvious that even the U.S. Administration, having ventured to eliminate two classes of nuclear weapons, is going further and announcing its consent to a halving of central strategic systems. On the other, as the prospect grows brighter, there is increasing skepticism, vacillation, mistrust, and fear of disarmament—a fear which weighs down on and stunts the shoots of hope and common sense which have just begun to emerge.

Common sense leads people forward, toward a radical lowering of the level of military confrontation, toward stable security based on political agreements. Fear pushes people back, toward perpetuating the situation whereby a stable danger is regarded as a guarantee of security.

It seems to me that the NATO leaders understand the complex and crucial nature of the present time. It was no coincidence that heads of state and government met in Brussels. Nor was it a coincidence that precisely the question of disarmament, its significance, and its place in NATO strategy was made the center of the Council's attention. What answer did the Atlantic bloc give to the question that had been put forth?

Let us turn to the declaration and the statement adopted by the NATO Council.

The declaration sets forth the oft-repeated, standard NATO view of the disarmament problem. "Arms control," the declaration reads, "is an inalienable part of our policy in the sphere of ensuring security. The talks which we seek are not an end in themselves. We seek them for the sake of reaching agreements which considerably lessen the danger of a conflict and make a genuine contribution to stability and peace." Developing this thesis, the NATO Council proposed an "all-embracing concept of arms control and disarmament." It includes four elements:

1. A 50-percent reduction in the strategic offensive nuclear arms of the United States and the USSR.

2. The elimination of chemical weapons on a global scale.

3. The establishment of a stable and reliable level of conventional forces throughout Europe by means of eliminating imbalances.

4. Simultaneously with the realization of points 2 and 3, tangible and verifiable [poddayushchiysya proverke] reductions in U.S. and Soviet ground-based short-range nuclear missiles leading to an identical ceiling.

We will speak of conventional arms a little later. For now, let us ask ourselves: With regard to nuclear weapons, what will this "all-embracing" program embrace, what prospect does it open up, and what stability does it promise? What does it recommend, and what does it not recommend?

As we have seen, it recommends, first, concluding the talks on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms, and second, reducing the number of Soviet and U.S. ground-based short-range missiles. It does not recommend, first, going below the 50-percent ceiling for strategic offensive arms; second, holding talks on the air- and sea-launched nuclear missiles sited in Europe, nor on other types of nuclear weapons (aerial bombs, artillery shells, and so forth); or, third, taking the nuclear forces or Britain and France into account. This is how things stand.

If the NATO program had not been described by its creators as "all-embracing," it could have made sense as an outline of the next steps and the next stages on the path of nuclear disarmament. But as an "all-embracing" program it has quite a different point: to legitimize the East-West nuclear confrontation and recognize it as inevitable and obligatory. Defense underpinned by conventional arms alone, the NATO Council explains its position, cannot ensure stable peace. Therefore, there is no alternative to the strategy of deterrence in the foreseeable future. This is a strategy "based on the correct combination of appropriate and efficient nuclear and conventional forces which, if necessary, they will continue and will maintain at the most modern level."

So, the future which they promise us will not differ in principle from the past and the present. The same old deterrence [sderzhivaniye] and nuclear intimidation [ustrasheniye]. The same old equilibrium of fear. The same old arms race (in an elegant form—"maintenance of arms at the most modern level"). Doing all they can to get away from visions of a "triple-zero," the NATO members promise each other that they "will neither advance nor accept proposals which mean undermining the nuclear potential of deterrence which the allies possess." To lock and board up the door to a nuclear-free world—this is the essence of the matter. "The document's tough language," the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT stated, "rules out any erosion of nuclear forces."

Now about conventional weapons. The NATO Council devoted to them the special statement "Conventional Arms Control: Program for the Future."

Naturally, the statement starts with NATO's "concern" at the Warsaw Pact's superiority in the most important conventional arms systems. Having once again frightened both themselves and others, the session participants agreed to hold talks "on stability in the sphere of conventional arms." To achieve the sought-for stability it is necessary to "eliminate imbalances" and "eliminate

capabilities for a surprise attack and for large-scale offensive actions." This is an aim which, in principle, fits in with the doctrine of reasonable sufficiency. The question of means complicates the matter. Not that there is any question here for NATO. What is needed is "highly asymmetrical reductions." The Warsaw Pact organization has more tanks and guns—let them be reduced. But NATO has nothing to reduce, for everything has already been reduced to the most minimal, strictly defensive minimum....

It is all simple to the point of naivete. But this is precisely an instance where simplicity is worse than theft. Complex problems demand complex solutions. Comprehensive, overall equality of military potentials is formed out of inequalities in individual types of arms. To take one or two inequalities out of the general context and on this basis create a disarmament concept means going against logic. "If you take the problem of the correlation of forces in Europe as a whole," USSR Defense Minister D.T. Yazov writes, "the picture is this: NATO and the Warsaw Pact have roughly equal overall personnel strength and quantity of artillery. The Warsaw Pact is superior to NATO in tanks. NATO has the advantage in terms of the number of combat-ready formations and fighter-bombers. On the whole, however, there is approximate equilibrium in terms of conventional arms, approximate parity." And if this is so, the elimination of imbalances is a mutual, not a one-sided process. By refusing to recognize this, the NATO leaders excise the only possible basis of an accord—the principle of the sides' equality and identical security.

Unfortunately, it has to be admitted that the lengthy elaboration of a general concept of disarmament deep within NATO plainly was not a success. The NATO proposals can hardly be deemed constructive. They are too "Western," too biased and one-sided. While taking one side's "concern" into account, they are reluctant to see the other's anxieties and concerns. They poison the future with the threat of nuclear catastrophe. They lead to a world which will, perhaps, yield to the present one in terms of the quantity of arms but which will clearly surpass it in terms of their quality.

In other words, we are once again being offered an old, stale commodity—disarmament through arms upgrading.

What is to be done? Consider that there is no point in talks, given such a divergence of positions? Hardly. Fate will not give us other partners. The whole point of talks is to try to bring positions closer together and discover a sphere of possible and mutually advantageous compromises. So we will not lose hope....

In conclusion—a curious detail. It has been reported that the U.S. President, after praising the declaration, at once admitted that he had not read it. And it is being written that the President, generally, was not in the best of form. On the other hand, the British prime minister was a model of vim and vigor. "...M. Thatcher's primacy in the alliance is acknowledged by everyone," the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH pointed out. So it cannot be ruled out that the alliance is on the threshold of a matriarchy....

Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers To Meet in Sofia
LD091808 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—In accordance with an arrangement reached, a regular meeting of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states will be held late in March 1988 in Sofia.

Bloc Journalists Confer on Socialist Democracy
PM071143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 88 Second Edition p 2

[I. Sevalkin report: "Important Instrument of Democratization"]

[Text] An international scientific conference entitled "The Mass Media and the Development of Socialist Democracy," organized by the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences and the USSR Union of Journalists, was held in Moscow 24-25 February. Representatives of the CSSR, the GDR, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, and Laos took part in the conference together with Soviet scientists and journalists.

The report by I. Laptev, IZVESTIYA chief editor and USSR Union of Journalists Board secretary, as well as speeches by others, analyzed the initial experience of restructuring the work of the press, radio, and television and examined the prospects for increasing the mass media's role in developing and deepening socialist democracy.

Yazov, Lizichev Greet Armies' Sports Committee
PM141118 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 88 Second Edition p 6

[Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhitnikov report: "The Friendly Armies' Sports Committee is 30 Years Old"]

[Excerpt] A ceremonial soiree devoted to the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Friendly Armies' Sports Committee was held in the Moscow Military District Officers' Institute yesterday.

The soiree was opened by Lieutenant General I. Rodionov, first deputy commander of Moscow Military District.

Colonel General V. Nechayev, Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate deputy chief, read out the text of a greetings message from Army General D. Yazov, USSR defense minister, and Army General A. Lizichev, Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate chief, in which they congratulated those present on the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Friendly Armies' Sports Committee. The message said that the Friendly Armies' Sports Committee, founded 12 March 1958, unites in its ranks representatives of 21 armies of socialist and developing countries and makes a significant contribution to the cause of strengthening combat collaboration, mutual trust, and respect between peoples and armies. Cooperation and mutual efforts by the participants in the Friendly Armies' Sports Committee, with the aim of improving the physical and psychological training of personnel, enhance the level of their combat readiness. The wish was expressed for new successes by the organization in its noble activity to further strengthen the relations of fraternity and cooperation between friendly armies in physical training and sport. [passage omitted]

Shcherbitskiy, Others Go To Women's Day Meeting
AU111229 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 6 Mar 88 pp 1-2

[RATAU report: "The Fatherland Is Grateful to Soviet Women: Solemn Meeting Held in Kiev on the Occasion of the International Women's Day 8 March"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A solemn meeting of representatives of Kiev working people and the soldiers of Kiev garrison, dedicated to the International Women's Day, was held in the Ukrainian SSR T.G. Shevchenko Academic Opera and Ballet House in Kiev on 5 March. On the eve of the festive day, the opera house, this pearl of the Ukraine's capital city, had reopened after reconstruction, and displayed its new appearance.

Presiding over the meeting were: V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; Yu.N. Yelchenko; Ye.V. Kachalovskiy; B.V. Kachura; I.A. Mozgovoy; V.A. Sologub; V.S. Shevchenko; S.I. Gurenko; Yu.A. Kolomiyets; V.D. Kryuchkov; and K.I. Masik, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members; M.A. Orlik, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman; advanced enterprise women workers; war and labor veterans; representatives of party, administrative, trade union, and Komsomol organizations; science, culture, education, and health service figures.

The solemn meeting was opened by G.M. Menzheres, Kiev Gorispolkom deputy chairman. [passage omitted]

A festive concert was held.

Voss Meets North Atlantic Assembly Head
LD111410 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today met with Peter Corterior, general secretary of the North Atlantic Assembly.

They discussed questions of establishing contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the North Atlantic Assembly.

Peace Committee Chairman on Talk With Vorontsov
LD111634 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] As already reported, a meeting of representatives of the Soviet public with Comrade Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, took place in the USSR Foreign Ministry. Well-known cultural figures, writers, poets, and journalists were invited to the meeting at the USSR Foreign Ministry. Our correspondent chatted with the writer Genrikh Borovik, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Genrikh Aviezorovich, what was the reason for this initiative of leading representatives of the Soviet public, the present visit to the deputy foreign minister?

[Borovik] Well, you know, this wish, which was expressed at a plenum of the Soviet Peace Committee the other day, consisted of making the process of adopting foreign policy decisions more democratic, more open [glasnyy], and seeing that public opinion played its proper part in it. In fulfilling this wish of the plenum, which, it seems to me, is fully in accordance with the spirit of the times, with the spirit of restructuring and the spirit of openness and the democratization of our society, we thus asked the Foreign Ministry about the possibility of a delegation of the Soviet Peace Committee visiting it. I have to tell you that consent was given immediately; the doors of the Foreign Ministry were open to us. Well, this is the first time this has happened in the history of the Soviet Peace Committee, and it turns out that it is also the first time in the history of the Foreign Ministry when a public delegation has visited a member of the Foreign Ministry at such a level. We were met not only by Yuriy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov; together with him were representatives of the information administration and other Foreign Ministry services. This, it seems to me, was a very significant meeting, significant not in the sense of the level...

[Correspondent, interrupting] In the [word indistinct] of the level?

[Borovik] No, significant, in the sense of the level of it, and it is also very typical of our times and of those new tasks we are setting before the Soviet Peace Committee in the foreign policy field.

[Correspondent] How did it go?

[Borovik] It was an extremely friendly meeting. A very urgent reason for our conversation was the alarm felt by all of our people and in the Soviet Peace Committee over the long, senseless, and increasingly aggravated war being waged alongside our borders, the war between Iran and Iraq, the war of the cities, the situation outside our embassy in Tehran the other day. This was, so to speak, a reason. This was the first question we put to the first deputy foreign minister. We received from him an exhaustive answer, and we also received answers to all the questions we put to him. There were a great many questions. They were wide-ranging, starting from the possibilities of concluding a treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive armaments and ending with such acute questions for us as those connected with propaganda; say, the reluctance of some of our military people to tell the Soviet people those things which they are compelled to talk about at meetings with their opponents—the Americans—or, say, the practice whereby the SS-20 missiles have until recently been called by the U.S. name.

[Correspondent] In NATO phraseology?

[Borovik] Yes, in NATO phraseology, or, say, when certain figures concerning our armaments are quoted. Then reference is made not to the Soviet Ministry of Defense but, say, to the Institute for Defense Information in London, which, of course, is ridiculous.

I have simply given you an example of how wide-ranging were the questions which we have been examining today. We all derived a great sense of satisfaction from this conversation. This is a great breakthrough [zarya], and this is, well, not a beginning, but a new stage in the development of cooperation between popular diplomacy and professional diplomacy. [end recording]

Special Committee on UN Charter Ends Session
LD120158 Moscow TASS in English 2300 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] New York March 11 TASS—The session of the special committee on the U.N. Charter and on the enhancement of the U.N. role came to a close today. The session focussed its attention, on an instruction of the U.N. General Assembly, on the question of maintenance of international peace and security.

On the basis of consensus, the delegates to the special committee, in which 47 countries are represented, endorsed a draft declaration on the prevention and elimination of international disputes and conflict situations as well as on the U.N. role in this respect.

This result became possible due to the spirit of cooperation shown by the participants in the session and due to the countries' realisation of an urgent necessity to take effective measures to prevent international disputes and crisis situations and to hinder them from growing into military clashes.

The document is keynoted by the idea that in the nuclear and space age the role of the United Nations in preventing and eliminating conflicts, which can threaten international peace and security, grows, and that it is easier to prevent disputes than to try to extinguish conflicts.

The draft declaration is the first versatile document in the U.N. history in the field of prevention of disputes and conflicts and is an important politico-legal guarantee of the strengthening of universal security. Its endorsement through consensus will undoubtedly raise the moral and political significance of the declaration.

"At the U.N. Headquarters the adoption of the draft declaration is viewed as an important contribution to increasing the preventive capability of the principal agencies of the United Nations and its secretary-general in the cause of preventing disputes from developing into serious conflicts between states", S. Smirnov, representative of the USSR, told a TASS correspondent.

"The draft declaration envisages a wide range of measures which can be taken by the U.N. Security Council which bears the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace. A special place is occupied by the recommendation on periodic meetings of the U.N. Security Council at foreign ministers' level to review the international situation and to look for effective ways to settle dangerous situations. This accords with the proposals which were put forward in the article 'Reality and Guarantees of a Secure World' written by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee".

The Soviet delegation to the special committee consistently emphasized that with reference to the realities of the nuclear and space age the prevention of international disputes and conflicts acquires exceptional importance and that the role of the United Nations in this respect is great as never before.

Decree Passed on UN Cultural Legacy Convention
LD102348 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet passed a decree on March 9, ratifying the convention on the protection of the world cultural and natural legacy, which was adopted by UNESCO on November 16, 1927.

Economic Cooperation With China, U.S. Viewed
LD131939 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has paid official visits to Washington and London. In Washington he met with President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, and representatives of the business world. Both sides said that the visit was a success and expressed satisfaction with the development of U.S.-Chinese relations based on mutual interests. The Chinese guest also welcomed achievements in U.S.-Soviet dialogue, in particular the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, and expressed the hope that the two nuclear powers will continue serious talks on disarmament matters.

One of the paradoxes of very recent history, and the reasons for this paradox are well known, is that the two largest socialist states, the USSR and China, do not have direct contacts with each other at such a high level or at summit level as both the USSR and China have with the largest capitalist power, the United States. As is well known, Moscow is calling for these contacts, but Beijing takes the view that the time is not yet ripe for them. As for China's economic relations with the United States, they are a lot broader than ours. In the past yeaer the volume of U.S.-Chinese trade turnover was around $10

billion, that is roughly five times more than U.S.-Soviet trade turnover. One of the explanations for this lies in the fact that the barriers put up along the road of Soviet goods to the United States are higher than those put up on the road of Chinese goods. We are not granted most favored status. The Americans are less willing to sell us progressive technology. And, alas, we have hardly anything to offer on the U.S. market, while the Chinese have textiles, for example. [passage omitted]

Japanese Contingent Part of Western Exercise

LD091516 Moscow TASS in English 1446 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo March 9 TASS—The largest contingent of Japan's armed forces will be involved in the manoeuvres code-named Rimpac-88 in the Pacific Ocean scheduled for June-July this year. The United States, Canada and Australia will take part in the manoeuvres besides Japan. Eight destroyers, a submarine, and auxiliary ship and eight P-3C anti-submarine aircraft will be committed to action only from the Japanese side. The Japanese many [as received] has been taking part in such manoeuvres, which are held once in two years, since 1980.

Military Observers View Exercises in Norway

LD131825 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—In accordance with the provisions of the document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, the USSR Government addressed the Norwegian Government on March 11, 1988 with a request for inspecting the military activity conducted on the Norwegian territory.

Upon receiving a positive answer to the request, a group of Soviet military inspectors arrived in Norway today and started the inspection.

Rome Seminar Adopts Resolution on Sea Terrorism

LD102347 Moscow TASS in English 1941 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Rome March 10 TASS—The participants in the International Maritime Organization's conference which ended here today unanimously adopted an international convention against sea terrorism. The conference was attended by delegations of 76 countries, including the Soviet Union.

The convention points out the need to develop international cooperation in the elaboration and application of effective measures and procedures to prevent any unlawful actions jeopardising the safety of sea navigation.

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' Held

LD132054 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 13 Mar 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Rudolf Georgiyevich Kolchanov, deputy editor in chief of TRUD; Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Lebedev, international affairs journalist; and Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zholkver, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio]

[Text] [Zholkver] Hello, comrades. At the center of attention of many international observers last week were the results of the so-called Super Tuesday in the United States. This was an important stage of the preelection campaign in the run-up to the presidential elections in November. On that day, primaries and caucuses of the the Republican and Democratic parties were held simultaneously in 20 states, and a third of the delegates to the forthcoming conventions of these two main rival parties were elected.

Well, among the Republicans, the clear winner of Super Tuesday was the present U.S. vice president, George Bush. He was well ahead of his main rival, Senator Dole—to say nothing of the two other contestants, the television preacher Robertson and Congressman Kemp. Among the Democrats, the situation is less clear cut. Here, in the Southern states—and most of the primaries held on Tuesday were in the South—southern Senator Albert Gore and the only black candidate, the well-known black public figure, Jesse Jackson, are in the lead. But, taking into account the results of the previous primaries, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukaks is in a very strong position in the Democratic Party in the country as a whole.

Well, with Super Tuesday out of the way, the U.S. press is now beginning to more closely analyze both the personal qualities and the political platforms of the possible candidate for the post of master of the White House. I know that you, Rudolf Georgiyevich, have been to the United States several times recently, so you'll be able to tell us about the specific character of the present preelection campaign.

[Kolchanov] There's a lot about the present election campaign that is conventional and, I'd even say, standard. But there are also a few innovations. It is common to spend huge amounts of money on the election campaign, and that custom is being preserved this time around, with an ever-increasing build-up of money flowing into public relations agencies, television, and so on.

[Zholkver] By the way, many of our listeners would like to know where the candidates get all that money from.

[Kolchanov] From the most various channels. Naturally, the main source is support from the industrial complex, and various donations, also, from very righ people as a rule. Then they also draw on their resources, because most of the candidates have fairly considerable sums at their disposal.

[Zholkver] Well, and as far as I, know they also receive a grant from state funds toward campaign expenses.

[Kolchanov] Yes, these are grants from the taxpayer's pocket. The sums, as you know, are quite considerable. Presidential candidates are allowed to spend $28 million during their election campaign.

[Zholkver] Not more.

[Kolchanov] Not more than 28 million. Bush and Dole have already spent $22 million each, so they each have 6 million left. That means they are already limited financially to some extent, though, as we know, their situations are different. I would also count among the usual elements the way the fight becomes more bitter, without respect for persons, and without regard for the rules decency, when they try to drag up all sorts of se scandals, sometimes dark and sometimes darker stil also say, on the subject of the atmosphere of the p election campaign and its special features, th feature that is both old and new is that usually promises are made, especially in the social and ec sphere. Much is promised to the socially deprived sections of society. Everyone is quite used to this, because despite the improvements in the economic situation that have been promised and heralded, and even in places come to fruition, in reality the country is up to its neck in socioeconomic problems. Suffice it to say that not one social problem has been solved and many social programs have simply been closed down.

[Lebedev] I recently read an article in THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, which, as you know, is a moderate liberal paper, and it points out that all the same, the present economic situation and the more or less reliable forecasts up to November—up to the date of the election, in other words—show, with varying degrees of probability, a fairly good economic situation on the whole. That is, an inconsiderable increase in unemployment is foreseen in the coming months, while economic growth should for the most part be maintained or fall only slightly. They are predicting that it will stay at a level of 2-2 1/2 percent, whereas it has in the past risen to 4-4 1/2 percent. There should be a relatively low level of inflation, also somewhere below 4 percent, and unemployment should be around 6 percent, which by U.S. standards is considered quite good. So all this, so far—unless, of course, something unexpected and unforeseen happens....

[Zholkver, interrupting]...like Black Monday.

[Lebedev]...like Black Monday, all this so far...

[Zholkver, interrupting]...when shares fell.

[Lebedev] Yes, all this is so far in the Republicans' favor. Another trait that is strongly brought out, I think, by the results of these primary elections that have just taken place is the obvious political bankruptcy of the ultra-rightwingers. Kemp, whom I would call, without skimping on my epithets, an unrivaled rightwinger, is clearly suffering defeat. Even Dole, who has been somewhat further to the right than Bush, is also losing. Among the Democrats, the pronounced success of Jesse Jackson is also very symptomatic from my point of view. I saw him in Washington about 10 years ago, and he was already an attractive figure, with his charm and political energy. Of course, he has grown to the stature of a serious political figure, and he is popular not only among black Americans. The papers say he now has the support of something like 10 percent of liberal white Americans. Again, incidentally, the latest opinion polls show that what was yielding dividends for the Democrats literally 3 months ago, back in December—namely the reply to the question about which party is more to be trusted when it comes to developing and stabilizing U.S.-Soviet relations, the majority said the Democrats, whereas now the majority say the Republicans. [sentence as heard]

[Zholkver] It is interesting, by the way, that TIME carried out a poll asking both Democrat and Republican supporters what qualities they considered especially important in a presidential candidate. Well, they said of course that he must be a strong and active leader, someone you can trust. Well, of course America is the land of business, and they think a presidential candidate should have a serious knowledge of economics. But here is the interesting thing: A great many people said one of the most important qualities of a presidential candidate was the ability to deal effectively with the Soviet Union.

[Kolchanov] That brings me to something I was just about to say. While we are on the subject of the features of this election campaign, I want to make that very point, Aleksandr Vladimirovich. Soviet-U.S. relations are the issue that has been quite unambiguously singled out now as one of the most important foreign policy problems around which the debate and the discussion is revolving in the course of the preelection struggle. That, I think, is very symptomatic.

[Zholkver] Interestingly enough, last week the PRC foreign minister, Wu Xueqian, was in Washington for talks. He met both Reagan and Shultz. It's being noted that Wu Xueqian showed an interest in the present state of U.S.-Soviet relations. The Chinese minister said his government welcomes the INF Treaty and hopes the talks on drawing up an agreement to reduce U.S. and Soviet strategic arms will be brought to a successful conclusion.

[Lebedev] Let me just interpose here that the Chinese foreign minister said China is willing to associate itself in the future with the process of nuclear disarmament and of disarmament in general. I think that is also a very important and symptomatic statement.

[Kolchanov] I should say that the stagnant period was one of stagnation in Soviet-U.S. relations as in other respects. If you remember the late seventies and compare them with the present period, the intensity, level, fullness, and richness of content of Soviet-U.S. relations are such that there is no comparison. Three summit meetings in just over 2 years—that is something that has never happened before.

[Zholkver, interrupting] And there is another meeting coming up....

[Kolchanov] There is another summit meeting due to be held at the end of May or in early June.

[Zholkver] Next week, if I remember right, will see the first meeting of the defense ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States....

[Kolchanov] On 21-23 March, the foreign ministers will be meeting in Washington....

[Zholkver] Well, and above all, of course, this week there were the conversations with a group of U.S. senators in Moscow. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev received them, as well as our foreign minister, Comrade Shevardnadze, and Central Committee Secretary Comrade Dobrynin. Well, naturally attention centered on questions of the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the two classes of nuclear armaments—that process, as you know, is underway both in the U.S. Senate and in the USSR Supreme Soviet. Incidentally, the U.S. senators met the chairman of our preparatory commission, which is a working body of the permanent foreign affairs commissions of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, Comrade Korniyenko. He noted that at present we are carrying out a thorough and detailed study of the treaty at hearings during which full account is being taken both of the arguments of the deputies and of the broad public of the Soviet Union. There were also talks with the chief of General Staff of the Soviet Union, Marshal Akhromeyev; most important of all, of course, were the conversations with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, in which a great many questions of interest to the U.S. senators were answered. In this meeting it was also shown how actively and constructively the Soviet Union is preparing for the new Soviet-U.S. summit meeting and the drawing up of new Soviet-U.S. disarmament agreements.

[Lebedev] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, I think what you have been saying is also important to our listeners. It is important to give them a register, as it were, to show the genuine breakthrough in Soviet-U.S. relations from the point of view of livelier contacts and dialogue at literally all levels—at state and public level, and at the level of people's diplomacy, of which a good word should be said. The public has not only joined in but is even at times ahead of the state contacts. But at the same time, we do not want to produce in our listeners any euphoria regarding the state of Soviet-U.S. relations. I think they do still remain fairly difficult. On disarmament questions, in Geneva for instance, at the talks on nuclear arms and on reduction of strategic offensive weapons, here we really must strive, not for the sake of speed as it were, but for the sake of, at the same time, not losing the pace that has been achieved in Soviet-U.S. relations, of course we must strive to conclude a treaty on strategic offensive arms as soon as possible. Yet from the United States—and sometimes from the level of the President—we periodically hear statements of a kind that, I would say, well, dampen one's ardor somewhat—to the effect that we shouldn't be in too much of a hurry, or else we'll get a bad treaty. But surely no one is posing the question in that way. What we have to do, surely, is make haste to conclude a good treaty.

[Zholkver] Delay's no guarantee of quality.

[Lebedev] By no means. By no means.

[Kolchanov] I'd agree with you entirely, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich. I want to say that the range of Soviet-U.S. relations, which has been very much expanded, includes a great number of spheres, actions, phenomena, and treaties, and so on that are very useful in relations between our countries. We have signed a whole series of agreements in science, the peaceful exploration of space, culture, sport, and even fishing. Work is being completed on setting up bilateral foreign economic consortiums, the question of joint enterprises is on the agenda, and so on. All this is gratifying. But—and I think this is something you were very right to emphasize—the real indicator of an improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations will be, in the very near future, the solving of the problem of strategic offensive arms. If the 50-percent treaty is signed, it will indicate one thing, and if not, it will indicate something else. For our part, we really are meeting them halfway and doing all we can to ensure that that treaty is ready by the summer of this year and will be signed.

We've also achieved a certain progress, among other things on the question of banning nuclear weapon tests.

[Zholkver] Yes.

[Kolchanov] ...and on the question of verification.

[Zholkver] Yes. Here the salient point is this: We all know that for a long time, the question of verification was seen as the stumbling-block; it was said to be difficult to verify intermediate-range missiles, and very difficult indeed in the case of intercontinental missiles. Well, it is indeed difficult, but not impossible. Interestingly, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency has now prepared two reports, which are addressed precisely to the senators engaged in examining the question of the ratification of the INF Treaty. Well, these are confidential reports. But, as often happens, a certain amount of information has leaked into the U.S. press, and one has been able to read in the pages of THE

WASHINGTON POST that in general terms these reports state that the United States is able to effectively verify observance of this treaty.

That is, even here it is acknowledged that the verification issue is now not an obstacle that might stand in the path of a future agreement either, incidentally. However, new obstacles are arising. The president's national security assistant, Powell, has just made a speech. As you mentioned, Rudolf Georgiyevich, he said that there is no need to hurry; the right treaty has to be prepared, as he put it, a treaty that could be ratified in the United States. There is nothing wrong with that, but what does Powell mean when he says the "right" treaty? It's a treaty, he says, that would not hamper the implementation of SDI, the Star Wars program. Well, forgive me, but how can one call a treaty "right"? It means that nuclear arms reductions would be taking place on the earth, while a considerable percentage of them would be transferred to space.

[Lebedev] So what will then become of the Washington ABM accord, the ABM problem? What was said was: While preserving the ABM conditions of 1972. This is not a new interpretation....

[Kolchanov, interrupting] Not a broad interpretation, but precisely...

[Lebedev, interrupting] The one that was put into... the meaning that was put into the agreement in 1972.

[Zholkver] Of course, all this is bound up with such consequences of the treaty signed on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as the question of what is to happen afterward with the U.S. shorter-range nuclear forces currently in Western Europe. At the NATO Council summit session which has just been held in Brussels, the question was raised by, above all, the British delegation but also, it seems, by some of the others, of modernizing these nuclear forces, which are now commonly called Atlantic nuclear forces. Of course, this is just as wrong as reducing nuclear weapons on the earth and transfering them to space. It is just as wrong to eliminate intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and the build-up and modernize shorter-range missiles.

[Lebedev] Yes, because in fact what is happening is this. Since the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles bans, so to speak, that entire class, from the 500-km range and upward, this talk of modernization is serving to disgise an enhancement of the missiles' accuracy and an increase in their range to a mark directly approaching that 500-km limit. So, again, this is a method of so-called compensation, by some means or other....

[Kolchanov, interrupting] Direct approach...a direct blow against the treaty, in fact.

[Lebedev] Yes, by some means or other to circumvent the treaty. This, of course, may have very negative repercussions for the entire system of accords now being created with such difficulty. You spoke about the discussions in Brussels, Aleksandr Vladimirovich. Well, I cannot fight the temptation, all the same, to make a few observations about the stance taken by Margaret Thatcher, in particular. As we know, Soviet television viewers are sympathetic toward her, and she has earned this, first and foremost, through her outward charm. But as regards her policies, it is impossible to refrain from the most serious criticism. After all, she is the most inveterate—not the only one, but the most inveterate—initiator of this modernization theme. True, it is being noted now after Brussels that she did not succeed in getting that term inserted in the final communique. A nebulous formula was found for it, one that can be translated in various ways, but that runs something like: We have to maintain shorter-range nuclear weapons at the necessary level, or at the proper level....

[Kolchanov, interrupting] At a modern level...

[Lebedev] ...at a modern level. Well, there are various ways of translating it. This, of course, is a compromise. There were, all the same, forces at the NATO Council summit who at least spoke out against issuing such a blatant challenge against the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. I am still trying to find some kind of explanation for the stance taken by Thatcher as the leader of the British Government, whose view is shared by some Western politicians.

Let's recall just how much she has complimented us on our restructuring, just how many words of praise she pronounced very recently. Admittedly, she hasn't renounced those assessments—to judge by her statements on them—including answers she has given to quite tendentious questions by journalists. But, of course, those assessments are now somewhat more muffled. Besides, she recently took the liberty of stating to a short of semi-confidential audience that it was easier—I'm not quoting her, but this was the sense of it—for the West to deal with the Russian bear in its former aggressive, for the West, appearance than with the Soviet Union in its present form, which is clearly eroding that traditional stereotyped enemy image. So, we should not expect patronage from the West—we have no reason to do so. There are always two competing tendencies there and always will be.

On the one hand, of course, Western officials of common sense and realism, I want to stress, find that the Soviet Union in the atmosphere of glasnost, democratization, and restructuring is more, so to speak, in accordance with their interests. But at the same time, on every occasion they suddenly stop to think that because the fact that this image might become too attractice and the fear that socialism might again start to attract the sympathies of not only the working class in their countries

but also of wide intellectual circles, thanks to democratization and glasnost, puts them on the alert. This prospect, of course, fails to arouse enthusiasm. Therefore, these two tendencies as far as we and our domestic and foreign policies are concerned, it seems to me, explain among other things much of this instability and hesitation in Brussels about the communique which-...[sentence incomplete as heard]

Two days before the session began, all Western newspapers had announced that an answer would finally be given to the Soviet proposals on European disarmament among other things, and at long last the West would manage to snatch the initiative from Gorbachev. So what is it that they have snatched? I have not seen a single specific proposal in this communique.

[Kolchanov] The attractiveness of the Soviet Union is determined, it seems to me, by a whole range of specific major peace-loving initiatives: One of them is to do with the Soviet proposals on settling the Afghan problem. You know that Afghan-Pakistani talks are on in Geneva. These talks are neither simple nor direct. One delegation is in the French room of the Palace of Nations in Geneva. The other is in room number one. I have had an opportunity to visit both rooms. The personal representative of the secretary general goes back and forth between these two rooms, trying to link points of view that do not always coincide, unfortunately, and that, I would say, have even been diverging in the last few days or so.

It might seem that after the statement of Comrade Gorbachev on the Afghan question and then under the new proposal agreed with the Afghan Government, the withdrawal of our troops in the course of 9 months, with half of them to be pulled out in the first 3 months, should have given a nudge to these talks. But all of a sudden, the Pakistani Government, which formerly said that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan was the only obstacle, is now putting forward another problem about setting up some sort of provisional government. We have rightly said that this is up to the Afghan people. At the same time, some representatives of the opposition also share this point of view.

[Zholkver] In Afghanistan?

[Kolchanov] Yes, in Afghanistan, I mean. Yet, here is Pakistan suddenly making these sort of claims and conditions, let us say. The United States, which pays lip service to wanting to settle the conflict, was also saying at one stage that as soon as the Soviet Union declared its intention to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, the United States would stop its help to the armed opposition. Now, not only is that not being said, but, on the contrary, they are increasing their supplies on the quiet. There has been a report about this quite recently. It said that both stingers and other weapons are being supplied. This, too, cannot fail to put one on the alert. This, too, cannot fail to arouse additional concern among us.

[Lebedev] Pakistan used to agree that the question of forming a national government should be tackled by the Afghan people themselves and on Afghan territory rather than in Islamabad or Moscow or Washington or Geneva. Yet now they have suddenly changed their position, and this is having the effect of inhibiting the accord that is already almost complete. Incidentally, who knows better than Pakistan that the seven-party group of so-called mujahidin is riddled with disagreements? Many leaders of cliques and small groups, as it were, disagree with the position of the fundamentalists. It is a frenzied position; there is no other word for it.

[Zholkver] Well, but one of the group has left the Alliance of Seven.

[Lebedev] Yes. Well, for example, here is an explanation of Pakistan's position given by THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, of all newspapers. This is quite a well-informed newspaper read by U.S. business circles. They write: President Ziaul Haq, who has been in office for over a decade and knows U.S. policy well, fears that the generous U.S. help to Pakistan will dry up as soon as the Soviet troops pull out of Afghanistan. Billions of dollars are involved.

[Zholkver] Well, I must say that, on the other hand, this so-called generous U.S. help that you have talked about, Aleksander Aleksandrovich, worries, for example, neighboring India. The statements of the Indian state minister of foreign affairs and of the Indian defense minister reveal that they are greatly concerned about the expansion of U.S. military supplies to Pakistan and are very much interested in settling the Afghan problem and the situation around Afghanistan as soon as possible. In other words, I think, rounding off our conversation today, one can say that the world situation is of course, quite complex, as far as the disarmament problem and regional conflicts are concerned. We have not had an opportunity today to talk about the situation in Central America, or about the U.S. provocative policy against Panama, or the situation in the Near East.

But I think that, nonetheless, in analyzing the general situation in the world, and noting above all the active and peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union, which was again stressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in the conversation with the U.S. senators, one cannot help recording the fact that the shoots of the new political thinking are, albeit with difficulty, breaking through. Thank you, colleagues for this conversation. Thank you, comrade listeners for your attention. All the best.

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Receives U.S. Senators, Scientists

PM140941 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 88 Second Edition p 1,2

["Meeting Between M.S. Gorbachev and U.S. Senators and Scientists"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev received on 11 March Senators Alan Cranston, Sam Nunn, Alan Simpson, Carl Levin, and William Cohen and scientists James Clarke, David Hamburg, Sidney Drell, Charles Townes, Donald Rice, Robert Legvold, and Deana Arsenian.

He described their arrival in Moscow and conversations with Soviet colleagues as an important contribution to the development of the Soviet-American dialogue in which personal contacts have played and continue to play a very significant role. Mikhail Gorbachev reiterated his high appraisal of his recent meetings with President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other American leaders. The political capital accumulated as a result makes it possible to count on continuity in the matter of improving relations between the two countries. This is a demand of time. This is desired in the whole world. And it is the duty of the two great nations to find means of embarking on the reliable road of constructive mutual relations, a balance of interests, to learn to live together in the complex contemporary world and cooperate for the benefit of each other and all the rest.

Mikhail Gorbachev noted the improvements that are taking shape along the line of cultural and information ties, contacts between businessmen, scientists and the public of the two countries. An exchange if developing between the U.S. Congress and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and all this is acquiring growing content.

The issues of security, arms reduction, international stability and confidence-building dominated the meeting.

The interlocutors expressed the conviction that the INF Treaty will be ratified. For this reason emphasis is shifting to the issue of strategic nuclear arms and conventional weapons.

Our efforts, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed, are directed at getting a good, reliable treaty on strategic offensive arms. A bad one won't make it either in your country or here.

The Soviet leader reminded the visitors of related proposals made during George Shultz's recent visit to Moscow. He did not rule out the possibility of considering proposals put forward by Senator Cohen.

The Soviet leader voiced confidence that the strategic offensive arms treaty could be prepared in time for the U.S. President's arrival in Moscow. But the way things have been going in Geneva these past few weeks cannot but arouse apprehension. And some recent official statements have added to the uncertainty.

Answering a question from Senator Levin, he reiterated the Soviet Union's allegiance to its position on a direct linkage between cuts in strategic offensive arms and compliance with the ABM Treaty of 1972.

Violating it destroys the entire machinery of the agreement. We shall never be able to bridle the rabid charger of the arms race if it is let loose in outer space.

There are also other points which, if we fail to reach agreement on them, will put the strategic offensive arms treaty in doubt.

This applies first of all to the sea-launched cruise missile problem, for we may not reduce some kinds of weapons, while counting on having others outside of control or even building them up.

The complexity of the problem of reducing conventional arms is universally recognised. Within this context answers were given to the question raised by Senator Cranston as to how the arms sufficiency principle is understood in the Soviet Union.

"We see it as including the exceptionally defensive nature of the military doctrine, parity and equal security, a change of the character of military activities, the pattern of the armed forces, their location, a mandatory reduction in armaments and the armed forces, and strict verifiction," Mikhail Gorbachev answered. "There are lots of problems in this respect, and they are extremely complex."

Senators Nunn and Levin expressed a number of specific proposals which could likewise be the subject of talks or of preliminary elaborations. Mikhail Gorbachev also called for inviting scientists more substantially to analyse all these problems. A thorough look into the problems and the highest competence are needed here, he said.

"The main thing is that it is essential to begin, at last, talks themselves, to put the cards on the table, as has been repeatedly said, to figure out everything, and to start 'bargaining' on all points, including asymmetries. What is needed here, just like in all other things, is consistency and frankness which rule out a one-sided approach, an emphasis on the partner's having an edge in something, and forgetfulness as regards one's own edge in other types of arms."

In this connection Mikhail Gorbachev stated that the recent Brussels session of NATO at summit level had made no headway.

"There was little real politics there. They dealt more with ideology and propaganda, and demonstration of NATO's unity. It must be also said at the same time that we are against loosening alliances. This would only breed suspicion, and would slow down the cause of disarmament."

One even gets the impression that certain NATO figures are afraid of talks, whereas talks are indispensable. It is only through talks, by joint efforts, that the entire character of Soviet-American and Soviet-West European relations can be changed for the better. No one can afford to ignore Europe's interests: Neither the USSR, nor the United States. We all are linked by common destiny.

Senator Simpson raised the question of regional conflicts, above all in Central America. It became clear again that a wrong view of the Soviet Union's policy in this matter is prevalent in the USA.

Mikhail Gorbachev repeated that the USSR has no special interest in Central America—no plans to create any military bases in Nicaragua or try to use its relations with Nicaragua to anybody's detriment. "But we solidarise with the Nicaraguan people's struggle for the right to independent development. And we do not see what a threat small Nicaragua can pose to the USA, a 'superpower.' We are in favour of that regional conflict being resolved in the framework of the Guatemalan agreement, by the efforts of the Contadora Group, by Latin Americans themselves. President Reagan was told this in Washington, and the proposals we made them remain valid."

We have already taken practical steps to invite the United States and other countries to cooperate in achieving a political settlement of regional conflicts without interference in the internal affairs of the countries involved in them. In this sense the problem of Afghanistan is a gauge of a really serious wish to act precisely in this spirit.

Meanwhile, after understanding has been reached with the United States, we witness attempts to bring aggravating elements into the process of the talks conducted between Afghanistan and Pakistan through the mediation of Cordovez.

When George Shultz was on a visit in Moscow, we showed a constructive approach also in the question of the Middle East settlement, and we count on the continuation of joint efforts to convene an international conference.

David Hamburg recalled Mikhail Gorbachev's idea of enhancing the role of scientists in world politics. Mikhail Gorbachev expressed a number of considerations as to how he views the organization of their joint work and their establishment of contacts with political leaders. Nowadays politics cannot be conducted in earnest without enlisting the potential of the intelligentsia, he stressed. Without this, politics are deprived of the human factor, so important now. Therefore, the Soviet leadership treasures so much the deepening contacts with scientists and workers in arts.

Mikhail Gorbachev said he appreciated the seriousness of the approach of those present and of the responsible circles in the United States in general to studying what is taking place in the Soviet Union. To be understood and apply the correct understanding to politics, to the sphere of communication among states is a most important factor of the transformation of international relations.

Perestroyka in the USSR does not threaten anyone. It leads to stabilisation and economic upsurge and also firmly asserts humanistic principles in Soviet society. Transformations in such a country as the Soviet Union require huge efforts. This is an extremely complex undertaking. Therefore, it is natural that we are interested in reliable peaceful external conditions.

Our foreign policy is determined also by the new thinking that has enabled us to see the imperatives of the modern world better and transform them into practice.

The experience of the three years has convinced the Soviet leadership even further that we cannot pursue any other policy but perestroyka inside the country and any other foreign policy but the one based on the new thinking.

This is also true of our course for improved relations with the United States. That we are having debates is not only normal, but even essential, so as to make fewer mistakes and guard ourselves against voluntarism and subjectivism which will doom us to vacillation and uncertainty at home and be fraught with difficulties for the rest of the world.

Favoring fundamental changes in the Soviet-American relationship, we do not entertain illusions or daydreams, M.S. Gorbachev continued. We proceed from realities, see the entire complexity of the real contradictions and problems clearly and have based the whole of our concept for checking the arms race and fashioning a secure world on precisely these premises.

Responding to remarks by Donald Rice, he explained the reasons for his optimism about the outlook for the immediate future.

What has already started in public and scientific circles and in the area of real politics makes it possible to look at developments optimistically. This is not euphoria. Unlike it, the optimism is based on realism.

We have as yet only made the first steps to getting to the constructive turnpike. And it will take a lot of patience to withstand the strain of the first three or five years which are needed to bolster the healthy trends and get new generations involved in them.

It is very important to keep on this presently very difficult course, without relapsing into confrontation again.

In this connection, M.S. Gorbachev responded with interest to R. Legvold's thoughts regarding the need to overcome the "enemy image" in relations between our peoples and systems. At least three elements are important here: acknowledgement of the right of each people and each country to independently choose its own way of life without pressure from others; comprehension of the inevitable differences between countries, peoples, and societies and the ability to find something positive in these differences to arouse competetiveness, rivalry, and useful confrontation; and realization of the scale of contemporary threats and the unprecedented nature of the problems concerning everyone.

Scientists bear tremendous responsibility for assimilating the entire complex of conditions for the survival of civilization. Speaking figuratively, these are the intellect and conscience. Their combination is the requisite human factor which every country and all mankind needs so much now in order to be able to take up new positions.

The theme of restructuring in the USSR and its international consequences ran through the conversation.

Questions of student exchanges, scientific and cultural ties, humanitarian problems, and human rights were touched upon.

We see the forces which want to push us off the constructive road, Mikhail Gorbachev said in conclusion. This is why consistency, firmness, and conviction that Soviet-U.S. relations can and must be improved in the interests of our two peoples and the whole world are needed.

In parting, Mikhail Gorbachev had a brief chat with each of the American participants in the conversation.

The meeting which continued for about three hours was held in an atmosphere of openness, wellwishing and high sense of responsibility, and was notable for mutual desire to consolidate the positive elements in Soviet-U.S. relations and for a businesslike approach to contentious issues. A.N. Yakovlev, A.F. Dobrynin, and J. Matlock took part in the meeting.

Further on Meeting

LD112117 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; announcer-read report over video of TASS report on meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and U.S. senators and scientists]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev today received at the Kremlin U.S. Senators Cranston, Nunn, Simpson, Levin, Cohen, and Clark [as heard]; and the scientists Hamburg, Drell, Townes, Rice, Legvold and Arsenian.

He described their arrival in Moscow and their conversations with Soviet colleagues as an authoritative contribution to the development of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue, in which personal contacts have played and continue to play a very significant role. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev reiterated his high appraisal of his recent meetings with President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, and other U.S. leaders. The political capital accumulated as a result makes it possible to count on continuity in improving relations between the two countries. This is something that time requires of us and something that is desired throughout the world.

The meeting was dominated by the issues of security, arms reduction, international stability, and confidence-building.

The interlocutors expressed the conviction that the INF Treaty will be ratified. For this reason stress is being shifted to the issue of strategic nuclear arms and conventional weapons.

Our efforts, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed, are directed at obtaining a good, reliable treaty on strategic offensive arms. A bad one will not make it either in your country or here.

He reminded the visitors of proposals made for this purpose the last time George Shultz was in Moscow. He did not rule out the possibility of considering the proposals submitted by Senator Cohen.

Gorbachev voiced confidence that the strategic offensive arms treaty could be prepared in time for the U.S. President's arrival in Moscow. However, the way things have been going in Geneva these past few weeks cannot but arouse apprehension. Some recent official statements have also added to the uncertainty.

Answering a question from Senator Levin, Comrade Gorbachev reiterated the Soviet Union's allegiance to its position on a direct linkage between cuts in strategic offensive arms and compliance with the 1972 ABM Treaty.

The complexity of the problem of reducing conventional arms is universally recognized. Within this context answers were given to the question raised by Senator Cranston as to how the arms sufficiency principle is understood in the Soviet Union.

We see it as including the exclusively defensive nature of the military doctrine; parity and equal security; a change in the character of military activities; in the structure of armed forces and in their location; a mandatory reduction in armaments and armed forces; and strict verification, Mikhail Gorbachev answered. There is a huge multiplicity of problems in this respect and they are extremely complex.

Senators Nunn and Levin expressed a number of specific proposals which could likewise be the subject of talks or of preliminary elaborations. The main thing is that it is essential to begin, at last, the talks themselves, to put the cards on the table, as has been repeatedly said; to figure everything out, and start bargaining on all points, including the asymmetries. What is needed here, just as in all other things, is the consistency and frankness which rule out a one-sided approach and exclude any emphasis on the partner's having an edge in something, and forgetfulness as regards one's own edge in other types of arms.

In this connection Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stated that the recent NATO session in Brussels at summit level produced no progress. There was little real politics there. They were too busy with ideology, propaganda, and demonstrating NATO's unity.

Let it be said at the same time that we are against loosening alliances—this would only engender suspicion and slowdown the cause of disarmament. One even gets the impression that among the NATO members there are some who are afraid of talks. Without talks, we won't get anything done. It is only through talks and by joint efforts that the whole nature of both Soviet-U.S. relations and Soviet-West European relations can be changed for the better. No one can ignore the interests of Europe—neither the USSR nor the United States. Here we are all tied by a common destiny.

Senator Simpson raised the question of regional conflicts, in particular in Central America. It again transpired that an incorrect understanding of the Soviet Union's policy on this matter prevails in the United States. We are in favor of this regional conflict being resolved within the framework of the Guatemala accords through the efforts of the Contadora Group, and by the Latin American people themselves. President Reagan was told this in Washington and our proposals, as expressed then, remain in force. We have already taken practical steps to invite the United States and other states to cooperate in the pursuit of a political settlement of regional conflicts without interference in the internal affairs of the states involved in them. In this sense, the problem of Afghanistan is a touchstone of a really serious desire to act in precisely this spirit. And yet, following the mutual understanding reaching with the United States, we see attempts to introduce aggravating elements into the process of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan through the mediation of Cordovez.

During George Shultz's visit to Moscow, we displayed a constructive approach on the question of a Near East settlement too, and we count on continued joint efforts to convene an international conference.

Hamburg recalled Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's idea about enhancing the role of scientists in world politics. Comrade Gorbachev voiced a number of ideas on how he saw the organization of their joint work and how they could be involved with political leadership. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev evaluated the seriousness of the approach, both of those present and of responsible circles in the United States in general, toward studying what is happening in the Soviet Union. Restructuring in the USSR threatens no one since it is not only leading to stabilization and an economic upsurge but is also firmly affirming humanistic principles in Soviet society. Transformations in a country like the Soviet Union demand enormous efforts. This is an extremely complex matter and our interest in having reliable and peaceful external circumstances is thus a natural one.

Our foreign policy line is also determined by new thinking which has enabled us to better see and implement the imperatives of the modern world. The experience of 3 years has persuaded the Soviet leadership even more that no policy other than one of restructuring within the country and no foreign policy other than one built on the new thinking can be pursued by us. This also concerns our course toward improving relations with the United States.

In coming out in favour of radical changes in Soviet-U.S. relations we have no illusions, nor do we we live in a dreamland, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev continued. We take life as our starting point. We see precisely the whole complexity of the real contradictions and problems and construct our concept of curbing the arms race and of forming a secure world precisely upon this.

Reacting to what was said by Rice, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev substantiated his optimism with regard to prospects for the immediate future. What has already begun in public and scientific circles, in the sphere of real politics, enables one to look optimistically at the development of events. So far we have only taken the first steps toward emerging upon a constructive track. A great deal of patience is going to be required in order to stand the pressure of the first 3-5 years that are essential for consolidating the healthy trends and for involving new generations in them. It is very important to stand firm on this present course which is very difficult and not to be deflected once again toward confrontation.

In this connection Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev responded with interest to the reflections of Legvold concerning the necessity of overcoming the image of the enemy in relations between our peoples and systems. At least three points are of importance here: Recognition that each people and each country has the right to choose independently its own way of life without imposing it on others; understanding of the inevitable differences between countries, peoples, and societies; and the ability to find even that which is positive in these differences which gives rise to contention, competition, useful comparison and recognition of the scale of the present-day threats, and the unprecedented nature of the problems which concern everyone.

The responsibility of scientists in mastering all conditions for the survival of civilization is enormous. Figuratively speaking this is intellect and conscience. Combining them forms that essential humanist factor which is so badly needed now by every country and by all mankind in order to move toward new frontiers.

In bidding farewell Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke individually with each of the U.S. participants in the conversation.

The meeting, which lasted some 3 hours, passed off in an atmosphere of openness, amicability, and responsibility at a high level and was distinguished by a mutual desire to consolidate the positive principles of Soviet-U.S. relations and by a businesslike approach to contentious issues.

Taking part in the meeting were Comrades Yakovlev, Dobrynin, and Matlock, ambassador of the United States in the Soviet Union.

A full account of the meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and the U.S. senators and scientists will be published in the press.

Cranston Interviewed on Talks

LD112007 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—"We had a wonderful meeting, a very spirited exchange covering many issues, very directly and in a very constructive way," Senator Alan Cranston, Democratic deputy leader in the U.S. Senate, said of today's meeting between a visiting group of American senators and scientists and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The U.S. visitors are here at the invitation of the Committee of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR.

Speaking in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent, Cranston said it had become "much easier" to discuss bilateral relations and world affairs because of the new openness, the new thinking and the perestroyka (restructuring) efforts in the USSR.

He added that the U.S. senators and scientists had come to Moscow to achieve greater understanding.

The discussions held in Moscow would definitely help the process of ratifying the Soviet-U.S. intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) Treaty, the senator said, adding:

"But in America the discussion is now focussing beyond INF on START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) and on conventional armaments and on other issues. And the same thing was true here. We didn't discuss INF that much. We discussed what comes thereafter.

"INF is a small step, but a significant step because it opens a way to some potentially giant strides thereafter."

"All the senators here," Cranston continued, "expect to support INF. I'm one of the leaders of the effort to get it ratified by the Senate... and we expect that it will be approved by an overwhelming vote in late April or early May."

Giving a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow at the end of their visit today, the American senators and scientists said there had been no specific agenda for discussion and the visit had been instead an opportunity to review the whole gamut of issues, including political, economic and military issues and human rights.

The trip to Moscow, they said, had been part of a broader program on U.S.-Soviet relations as seen by both sides and had been sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York under its "avoiding nuclear war" project.

Others Discuss Talks

LD120235 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] At a news conference in Moscow a group of U.S. senators and scientists shared the impressions of their stay in the capital. Senator Alan Cranston said that he was pleased with the visit.

[Begin Cranston recording] We've had a very warm and open reception. We've had an opportunity to explore many matters that we consider important and that the Soviet people with whom we have met consider important. We have reported that we are all supporters of the INF Treaty and reported that we expect the United States Senate to approve ratification of that treaty by late April or early May. [end recording]

The director of the Harriman Institute for Advanced Study of the Soviet Union at Columbia University, Robert Legvold, recalled the exchange of views he had with the general secretary, Mikhail Gorbachev.

[Begin Legvold recording] General Secretary Gorbachev had begun the meeting this afternoon by saying what you've heard him say before, that in the U.S.-Soviet relations we must be realistic and avoid illusions and euphoria. Then toward the end of the meeting, Don Rice, the head of the Rand Corporation and a member of our group, had asked him a question that was forward looking, about his expectation of where U.S.-Soviet relations might be 10 years from now. And after pretending some modesty in answering that question, the risk of predicting something like that, gave us a rather optimistic answer which he in turn characterized as optimistic. So I took that as a lead for making what I confess was a rather academic point with him. I said that I shared not only his appeal or expectation that our approach to U.S.-Soviet relations be realistic, without illusions and euphoria, but I also shared his view that the prospects for U.S.-Soviet relations were rather optimistic in the near term and into the nineties. And I said one of the reasons for that was that it seemed to me Gorbachev himself was modernizing an important dimension of Soviet foreign policy in a way that I thought would be reciprocated on the U.S. side. I already see some of that evolution. The Soviets have been talking a great deal in recent months, as most of you know, about modifying the image of the enemy as an important thing that ought to take place in East-West relations. I argued that it seems to me he is now in the process of—in a fundamental, in a fundamentally conceptual way—beginning to alter the way the Soviets have (?for) years thought about the enemy. And I said I thought that the same thing was happening in the United States and likely to continue. And then he responded to that comment. [end recording]

Senator Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Senate's Armed Forces Committee, said that in Moscow he paid much attention to the problem of reducing conventional arms in Europe.

[Begin Nunn recording] I made some personal observations and suggestions today, as I did in other meetings this week. First of all, we all know the history of the MBFR, Mutual Balanced Force Reductions. Fourteen years we've negotiated that. We've never gotten an agreement even on a data base. Now, what I proposed to tell Secretary Gorbachev today was that we start off with a data exchange. If you can't cross that bridge it's going to be very hard to make any progress. The second thing I propose is verification is going to be a major problem with conventional arms control. Any way you come up with an agreement it's going to be a real challenge. And I also feel, as he said, as general Secretary Gorbachev has said, one of the major goals will be to reduce any perception of surprise attack on either side. [end recording]

The meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday completed the visit by American senators and scientists to the USSR. Over a week in Moscow they not only met with Soviet officials but visited the Institute for Space Research where they were told about Soviet plans for the exploration of space by the end of the century. There they were shown a laser to be used to explore the surface of Phobos, the satellite of Mars, to which a Soviet space probe will be launched this summer. The American delegation also visited the Atomic Energy Institute where it familiarized itself with the work in the field of safe nuclear power engineering.

Shevardnadze Receives Richard Murphy

LD111550 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister of the USSR, today received Richard Murphy, assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who arrived in Moscow as a personal representative of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Richard Murphy informed Eduard Shevardnadze about the results of the recent talks held by U.S. secretary of state in the Middle East, about American considerations with regard to the settlement of the conflict situation in that region.

Eduard Shevardnadze set out the Soviet approach to the problem of the Middle East settlement, which stems from the need to take into account the interests of all parties involved in the conflict. It was emphasized that the sole realistic way towards a comprehensive settlement in that region lay through the convocation of an international conference, in whose favour a rather broad consensus has already been shaped up in the world.

Several questions were put from the Soviet side regarding the American side's approach to such fundamental aspects of settlement as the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories under U.N. Security council resolutions, the solution of the core, Palestinian problem.

Since the divergencies in the approaches of the USSR and the United States are preserved, the discussion of the Middle East topic will be continued, including at the coming meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze and George Shultz in Washington.

The talks also touched upon issues related to the settlement of the Afghan problem and cessation of the Iran-Iraq war.

'Dangerous Trend' of U.S. Binary Weapon Plans

LD111108 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—The newspaper "PRAVDA" appraised a report that the U.S. Administration requested 203.2 million dollars from Congress for development and production of chemical binary weapons in the fiscal year 1989 as another manifestation

of the dangerous trend—attempts of reactionary militarist quarters to "make up for" elimination of the two classes of nuclear weapons with building up mass destruction arms of other types.

These considerable funds, says an article published in today's issue of the newspaper, are assigned for implementing three main programmes: production of 155 mm artillery binary shells, binary bombs Bigeye and development of binary warheads for missiles.

Why, the author asks, has Washington found it possible and necessary to speak in public again of this now that real prospects for reversing the arms race have opened before the world? This is precisely how people assess everywhere the results of the signed INF Treaty and chances of the current Soviet-American talks on cutting strategic offensive weapons. The request for appropriations for new chemical weapons seems even more irrelevant, since at the recent Washington meeting the USSR and the USA expressed mutual commitment to the cause of drafting a verifiable all-embracing and efficient international convention on prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

It is possible to speak, the newspaper continues, of a "binary" game of those who would like to reap laurels of "peace-makers", continuing at the same time the fatally dangerous military race. But a double game is not in the spirit of our times. Nations are waiting for honest and consistent efforts for the sake of peace from politicians.

Yazov, Carlucci To Meet in Bern 'Mid-March'
LD122150 Moscow TASS in English 2138 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—It has been officially announced here that, under the accord reached, a meeting will be held between General of the Army Dmitriy Yazov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of defence of the USSR, and Frank Carlucci, secretary of defence of the United States, in Bern, Switzerland, in mid-March this year.

Further on Reagan's UK Television Interview
LD111657 Moscow TASS in English 0938 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] London March 11 TASS—U.S. President Ronald Reagan gave an interview to the British ITV company where he dwelt at length on the main issues of disarmament and arms control. He pointed out that the USA and the Soviet Union want to conclude an agreement on a 50-per-cent cut in strategic offensive weapons. "But it is a little more complex than the INF Treaty that we agreed to because of the verification features and all. So I am acting on supposition that the USSR also wants the treaty and it's a case of not setting a deadline whereby you would have to hurry and may accept something less than is possible simply to meet the deadline. So we've set no date but we work as hard as we can to arrive at an agreement."

Replying to a question, Reagan said that he would go to Moscow for a Soviet-American summit meeting even if the agreement in question is not ready. He noted that, apart from arms control, there are other issues to be discussed. He named, among other things, such regional problems as the situation in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and the problem of human rights.

Reagan refused to reply to a question of whether the USA intends to strengthen its nuclear weapons in Europe after INF are eliminated. He explained his refusal by the premise that questions of strategy should not be discussed in public. At the same time Reagan agreed with claims by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that it would be foolish to expect that Europe would be free from nuclear weapons in the next few years. He reiterated NATO's position on "superiority" of the Warsaw treaty member states over NATO in conventional weapons. This allegation was not substantiated by any evidence. It will be remembered that several military experts, for instance Paul Nitze, special adviser to the President and the U.S. secretary of state on arms control matters, believe that there is some disbalance on both sides. However, they recognize that there is, on the whole, approximate parity of NATO and Warsaw treaty forces in Europe.

Reagan said that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". At the same time he again emphasized his determination to implement the space militarization policy, depicting the SDI as purely "defensive" and aimed at "rendering the nuclear weapons obsolete".

Asked what special advice he would like to give to his successor, the President replied, "deal from strength".

Economic Sanctions Against Panama Ordered
LD112220 Moscow TASS in English 2149 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 12 TASS—President Ronald Reagan of the United States has ordered that monthly payments due to Panama for the use of the Panama Canal be suspended and that other trade and economic sanctions be applied for the purpose of undermining the financial position of the Panamanian Government and securing ouster of the country's military leader General Noriega.

Earlier American banks "froze" Panamanian Government's deposits kept in them.

It follows from a statement by a White House spokesman that a 6.5 million dollar payment, due to be paid to Panama on March 15 for the United States's use of the Panama Canal Zone under the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties, will be put into escrow.

Besides, Panama will be deprived of a whole number of customs privileges which the United States granted to that country earlier within the framework of the so-called Caribbean Initiative. A financial damage which Washington's new punitive sanctions will inflict upon Panama, may amount, according to the REUTER news agency, to about 100 million dollars. The UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI) news agency points out that these measures by the United States are aimed at bringing about an economic crisis in Panama.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, addressing journalists following the announcement of the White House's decision on new discriminatory measures against Panama, stated that General Noriega should get out of the way.

Further on Sanctions

LD130839 Moscow TASS in English 0717 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 13 TASS—The U.S. Federal court in Miami, Florida, has sequestrated the assets of the Air Panama Company, including two Boeing-727 passenger planes, ground equipment and accounts at U.S. banks.

This step has been taken within the framework of a whole series of anti-Panamanian sanctions by Washington, which previously ended all types of economic and military aid to that Central American country. Last week U.S. President Ronald Reagan ordered that Panama be not paid the 6.5 million dollars in the monthly royalties for the use of the Panamanian Canal linking two oceans. In order to deprive that country of the funds due to it, Washington has also refused to use the oil pipeline running across the Panama isthmus.

The administration also announced that it would assist all legal measures by the supporters of Panama's former president Erich Arturo Delvalle aimed at freezing Panamanian assets in the USA. Delvalle was removed from his office as president in keeping with the decision of Panama's Legislative Assembly (parliament) after he attempted to sack General Noriega, the commander-in chief of the country's national defence forces. The American authorities are doing their utmost in an attempt to oust Noriega from his office. They charge him, in particular, with complicity in international drug trafficking.

According to the U.S. ASSOCIATED PRESS agency, the measures so far taken are aimed above all at depriving the Panamanian authorities of the funds necessary to pay the salaries to army men and government officials and thus cause discontent in the country. Noteworthy is also the time chosen for that move, the agency quotes a U.S. official as saying. The latter expressed hope that Noriega's dismissal could be accelerated if government employees begin to face economic difficulties and join the opposition.

Boris Moreno, the head of the national information administration, described these actions by the Reagan administration as "economic aggression." They mean that if the Government of the USA dislikes the government of some or other country it may freeze any of its funds in the USA, he told an AP correspondent. He also added that Washington's actions have, as a matter of fact, brought about a "state of war" between the USA and Panama.

U.S. 'Taking Aim' at Panama's Independence

LD111541 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—By TASS Political News Analyst Nikolay Chigir:

Reports on developments around Panama leave no doubt that the Washington administration intends to crush the independence of that country and perpetuate U.S. domination over its territory, first of all the Panama Canal Zone.

A convenient pretext has been found for fresh intervention in Panama's domestic affairs: The United States has accused the commander-in-chief of the Panamanian National Defense Forces, Antonio Noriega, of being in "drug trafficking".

It is only a short time ago that General Noriega was regarded in Washington as "one of ours". Why then the sudden torrent of sordid insinuations from Washington now, meant to secure his removal?

Commentators, including U.S. ones, do not rule out the possibility that the U-turn has been due to the failure of Washington's hopes to "tame" the Panamanian general and persuade him to allow a revision of the U.S.-Panamanian agreements under which the last U.S. soldier is to leave Panama by the year 2000.

That country's National Defense Forces led by Noriega came out strongly against any revision of treaties with the United States and in favor of those treaties being abided by to the point.

It was then that Washington's secret services mounted their offensive.

In fact, they are taking aim at Panama's independence and sovereignty.

As far as "drug trafficking" is concerned, Washington "attorneys" should look first at what is happening under their very nose, in particular the results of the probe into

the Irangate scandal, which has revealed the direct involvement in drug-related crimes of such high-ranking U.S. officials as Robert Mcfarlane, John Poindexter and Oliver North.

What would Washington really like is to do away with Panama's independence, make it back into the obedient U.S. puppet it used to be, and seal the U.S. military bases there, which have not only Central American and Caribbean, but also all Latin American nations in their sights.

Eager to achieve these ends, the Washington administration does not care whether its actions are legal from the standpoint of international law.

The U.S. anti-Panamanian measures in the field of finances, intentions to impose an effective economic blockade, saber-rattling, and attempts to twist the arms of other Latin American countries to force them into joining the "crusade" against Panama are a gross violation of the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States and of international treaties, including those the United States has signed with Panama.

U.S. 'Undeclared War' Waged Against Panama

PM111347 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 88 Second Edition p 7

[Political observer Vitaliy Korionov "Viewpoint": "'They Are of the Usual Nature...'"]

[Text] Increasingly alarming reports keep coming from the Panama Canal Zone. The U.S. Southern Command, in violation of the existing treaty and previous practice and without any preliminary accord with the Panamanian Government, has recently carried out maneuvers involving units of its air and naval forces stationed in the Canal Zone. At the same time the press reports that U.S. National Guard subunits are being sent from Florida to Panama where they will "carry out military training." U.S. Army Command spokesmen have imperturbably announced that these military measures "are of the usual nature."

The authors of this report presumably did not suspect that this time they have unexpectedly made a curious confession. For Washington's actions in the Panama Canal Zone are indeed of the "usual nature," since this time too the U.S. Administration is employing the same "usual" means which it invariably employs against anti-imperialist forces and against peoples upholding their sovereignty.

Washington's claims that the whole point is that Panama is "more or less the main culprit for the rampant drug addiction in the United States" are only intended for simpletons. It is obvious to every objective person that the key issue in the problem is the fate of the Panama Canal. Panamanian patriots have struggled for many decades to return sovereignty over the canal to its rightful owner—the people of Panama. As is well-known, their protracted struggle was crowned by the achievement in 1977 of a series of agreements according to which the last U.S. soldier is to leave the Panama Canal Zone by the year 2000. But Washington has no intention of doing this.

But I believe that it is not only a matter of the canal. The Pentagon does not want to let go of what it considers an important strategic position—a country situated on the Central American isthmus. It is no coincidence that the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters are located here and the 14 navy and air bases in the Canal Zone are used extensively for aggressive actions against other countries, notably Nicaragua.

It is understandable that U.S. "brass hats" regard as enemies those who stand in the way of the implementation of their bellicose schemes. There is nothing coincidental about the fact that Washington's present anti-Panamanian campaign is spearheaded against the patriotic military in Panama who, headed by General Torrijos, played an extremely important role in achieving the 1977 agreements. The plot is obvious: to put people who suit Washington in power in Panama.

So Washington has set in motion an entire arsenal of systems and methods for a distinctive "undeclared war" against a country with a population of barely 2.5 million people: persecution, slander, ultimatums from Congress, unconcealed Pentagon threats, bribery and inflammatory actions by antigovernment opposition forces within Panama, covert CIA operations, and so on.

World public opinion regards the military measures being implemented at the moment by the Pentagon as a possible prelude to U.S. intervention in Panama. At the present the main stress is being laid on economic pressure and financial sabotage. Speaking at the OAS General Assembly session, Jorge Abadia Arias, Panamanian foreign minister, noted that "moral and economic aggression" has been unleashed against the Panamanian state. "It was carefully elaborated within the framework of a global strategy and with no thought for moral principles and is being implemented with no qualms about the use of any methods and no expense spared."

The small country is literally being taken by the throat. As is apparent from press reports, 500 million dollars belonging to Panama has already been seized in the United States. Economic "sanctions" against the government, which has dared to uphold the country's honor and sovereignty, are assuming an increasing scale, as a result of which, NBC notes, the "country is on the brink of economic exhaustion." However, anti-Panamanian elements sheltering under Washington's wing are demanding that "all conceivable steps for pressure, however dramatic they may seem, must be taken...."

Public opinion in Latin America and other regions of the planet has condemned Washington's dangerous course. Peruvian President Alan Garcia stated, in particular, that his country does not intend to support the hegemonist pro-imperialist positions of those who have retained their bases in Panama for a long time, having established control over the canal. A United People's Front incorporating the National Council of Working People and a number of other organizations has been set up in Panama. The campaign of solidarity with the Panamanian people is growing throughout the world.

Truman Doctrine Continues To Dictate Policy

LD112341 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—TASS news analyst Yevgeniy Babenko writes:

March 12, 1947 went down in history as a grim, dramatic date. On that day the first post-war President of the United States, Harry Truman, addressed Congress with a message which formulated the doctrine later to become the basis of the cold war strategy, the programme of Washington's imperialist expansion, military and economic aid to reactionary forces in the world.

The essence of Truman Doctrine was pathological anti-communism and a claim to world supremacy. Harry Truman called for "containment of communism", and assessed this as a special role of the United States in the post-war system of international relations.

The anti-communist Truman Doctrine is clearly seen now as the origin of Washington's present neoglobalist policy. The New York-based WORLD POLICY JOURNAL says that the doctrine now used in the United States is the logical extension of the strategy that has been determining the United States foreign policy over the period after 1945 and is based on a profoundly erroneous premise that any events in developing countries are nothing more than the continuation of the East-West conflict or a result of "Soviet expansionism".

One could give a long list of countries and regions where the doctrine of the United States as world policeman has been persistently implemented in the years since 1945. There are definite circles in the capital of the United States for whom the policy from the position of strength is the best policy to this day, moreover, the only correct policy. They viewed as real tragedy the results of the recent voting in the House of Representatives that rejected the plan for granting another package of U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

The line at power politics is not a new invention of the current U.S. Administration, but rather another "discovery" of Truman's America. But the point is that the world in late eighties is not what it was in 1947 and they in Washington and in other NATO capitals cannot disregard this altogether. The signing in Washington of the treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles set the beginning to another important stage in the struggle for disarmament and peace, opened prospects for a greater confidence among nations.

There is some contradiction, though. On the one hand, the White House administration keeps its word, upholds the international agreement on the reduction of nuclear weapons, signed at the summit level, the first such agreement in history. On the other hand, it echoes the extremists' anti-Soviet anti-communist rhetoric and supports them by definite actions in the militaristic style taken under the same invented pretext of the struggle against the "growing Soviet menace".

This is a relapse into old political thinking, recourse to the customary "enemy image". It seems that certain persons in Washington's corridors of power feel particular kinship, among all former Presidents, with President Truman.

Shultz Remarks to Subcommittee on INF Cited

PM140928 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "G. Shultz Speech"]

[Text] Washington, 11 Mar—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz spoke on Thursday at the hearings in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. "In NATO," he stressed, "there is clearly a coincidence of views that, first and foremost, it is necessary to work on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms, where we have achieved significant progress, on a truly global and verifiable ban on chemical arms, and on rectifying the imbalance in conventional arms."

In his speech, which was devoted to various aspects of U.S. foreign policy, Shultz called for the military might of the United States and its NATO allies to be "built up and maintained." Touching on the question of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, he claimed that the talks that preceded the signing of the Soviet-American agreement "were a demonstration of political will combined with strength," and the drafting and signing of the document were supposedly the result exclusively of NATO's "resolve" and "firmness."

Touching on the Afghan question, the head of the U.S. foreign policy department stated that the United States has given "resolute support" to the armed opposition and that this will be continued. Going on to examine the situation in Central America, Shultz made threats against Panama and again resorted to the usual anti-Nicaraguan rhetoric.

U.S. Visit by Israel's Shamir Seen as 'Show'

LD111303 Moscow TASS in English 1241 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 11 TASS—TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

Active preparations are under way for a visit to the U.S. of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir scheduled for next week. The Israeli prime minister will come to Washington two weeks after the end of a tour of Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Syria made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The terror unleashed by the Israeli military on occupied lands evoked the indignation and protests all over the world. Indignation over the Israeli actions is mounting even in the U.S. Jewish community. Bert Gold, vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, compared them with the methods used by the Nazis against the Jews. Even U.S. congressmen about all of whom invariably supported Israel until quite recently under the pressure of the administration and a powerful pro-Israeli lobby by allocating 3 billion dollars annually for military and economic assistance to Israel are beginning to denounce it.

The atrocities of the Israeli military on occupied territories constitute a gross violation of human rights. Under the U.S. legislation U.S. assistance should be discontinued to the countries grossly violating human rights. Thus, George Shultz set out for a tour of the Middle East countries with a view to preventing such a situation that would be very much undesirable to the U.S. Administration and its strategic ally and bringing down a wave of indignation over Israeli actions. He announced that his intention was to envigorate a peace process in the region.

Speaking in Congresss last Thursday, Shultz said that during his trip he had discussed a plan put forward by him that among other things, the convocation of an international conference that would discuss a peaceful settlement in the Middle East under the aegis of permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. However, according to the Shultz Plan, the conference would not be able to take any valid decisions. It would only approve and promote direct bilateral talks between Israel and Arab countries. The U.S. actually intends to use the prestige of an international conference for bringing life to the Camp David "method" that has failed to establish peace in the Middle East.

Washington hints meaningfully that "positive results" can be achieved during Shamir's visit. A show started for the purpose of demonstrating the 'struggle' waged by the U.S. for a peaceful settlement is going on.

U.S. Announces Closure of PLO Office

LD121016 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 12 TASS—By TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko:

The USA does not wish to observe the norms of international law if they become unnecessary or disadvantageous to it. A statement in this spirit was made by a spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department who announced at a press conference the closing of the mission of the permanent observer of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to the U.N.

The spokesman for the Justice Department was asked whether it was lawful that the USA had unilaterally refused to meet its own commitments stemming from the U.N. Charter and from the agreement on the status of the U.N. Headquarters in New York and whether this decision called in question in general the attitude of the USA to the international treaties and agreements.

The spokesman for the Justice Department was trying to justify the U.S. move by references to "age-old practices" of the U.S. Supreme Court, in keeping with which, as he claimed, the domestic laws of the USA have a priority, or can cancel the commitments of the USA under international treaties and agreements. On these grounds, he said, the USA will not agree to an examination by the International Court in The Hague of the decision to close the PLO mission in New York.

In his turn, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz described the adoption of the Congress of the law, on whose strenth the PLO mission to the U.S. is closed, as one of the greatest follies made by the Congress recently. He recalled that the decision on setting up the PLO mission to the U.N. was taken by an overwhelming majority of the U.N. members.

Demonstrations in Washington

LD140948 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 14 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin reports:

A mass demonstration took place here on Sunday in support of the Palestinian population's uprising in the Israel-occupied West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza sector.

Thousands of people marched through the streets of the U.S. capital under the slogans "Down with the Israeli policy of genocide", "PLO—The sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people", and "End 20-years-long occupation of Arab lands". At the head of the column of demonstrators was a group of Palestinian children who carried a streamer saying "Israelis, stop killing Palestinian children".

The demonstration was sponsored by a number of U.S. public organisations and was supported by trade unions and religious associations of the United States. Taking part in the demonstration were members of the Jewish community of Washington who carried placards proclaiming "Zionism means racism", "The Palestinians' blood is not water". The demonstration ended with a meeting in Lafayette Square in front of the White House, with more than five thousand people participating.

The demonstration was timed for the forthcoming visit (beginning today) of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. According to press reports, the new American Middle East peace plan will be discussed during talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The plan was made known to the Israeli leaders by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his recent tour of the countries of the region.

The U.S. proposals envisage, in particular, the holding of a Middle East peace conference and the granting of a limited autonomy to the Palestinians in the Israel-occupied Arab territories.

However, even the curtailed concessions which do not meet the national aspirations of the Palestinian Arabs were cold-shouldered by the Israeli "hawks" headed by Prime Minister Shamir.

Belitskiy on How, Where AIDS Virus Originated

LD112309 [Editorial Report] Moscow World Service in English at 1031 GMT on 11 March broadcasts an item during which Boris Belitskiy answers the latest batch of listeners' questions about AIDS. The questions are read by an unidentified announcer. Belitskiy replies to a U.S. listener's question on how many cases of AIDS exist in the USSR, saying: "Some 200 foreigners and 30 Soviet citizens have been found to be AIDS carriers. The actual number of people who have developed the disease does not exceed 40. A screening of 1 million blood donors revealed only 1 AIDS case." Belitskiy goes on to say that well over 10,000 people have applied for AIDS tests; a few of them were found to be infected—5 Soviet citizens and 10 foreigners.

The announcer says that several listeners have asked about the theory that AIDS is a man-made virus and if there are any facts to support it. Boris Belitskiy replies: "Several U.S. Administration officials, such as USIA Director Charles Wick, have accused the Soviet Union of having invented this theory for propaganda purposes. But actually it is not Soviet scientists at all who first came up with this theory. It was first reported in Western journals by Western scientists, such as Dr John Seale, a specialist on venereal diseases at two big London hospitals and one of the first scientists to point to the viral nature of AIDS."

The announcer asks if there has been any new evidence lately to support this theory. Belitskiy says: "Just recently a Soviet journalist in Algeria, Aleksandr Zhukov, managed to interview a European physician at the Moustapha Hospital there, who made some relevant disclosures on the subject. In the early seventies, this physician and immunologist was working for the West German Otrag Corporation in Zaire. His laboratory had been given the assignment to cultivate viruses ordinarily affecting only animals but constituting a potential danger to man. They were particularly interested in certain unknown viruses isolated from the African green monkey, and capable of such rapid replication that they could completely destabilize the immune system. These viruses, however, were quite harmless for human beings and the lab's assignment was to develop a mutant virus that would be a human killer."

The announcer asks: "Did they succeed?"

Belitskiy replies: "To a large extent, yes. But when they innoculated the inhabitants of several jungle villages with such a mutant virus on the pretext of giving shots against cholera, this did not produce the immediate results required of the lab. Now, it is well-known that people infected with the AIDS virus can live for several years without developing the disease but at the same time the result was summed up as proving the unsuitability of the virus as a biological warfare agent. The lab was ordered to wind up the project and turn the results over to certain U.S. researchers, who had been following this work with keen interest, to such an extent that some of the researchers believed they were in reality working not for the West German Otrag Corporation but for the Pentagon. In fact, two U.S. assistants had been with the lab throughout the work on this project. Several years after the lab had turned over its findings to the Americans, back came the news of the first AIDS cases in San Francisco. The researcher believes that the Pentagon had tested the mutant virus on convicts in California."

China

Rogachev Interviewed on Ties With PRC, Japan

AU111444 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 8 Mar 88 p 3

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Igor Alekseyevich Rogachev, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, by Branko Vlahovic: "Changes in China and the USSR are Stimulus for Expanding Cooperation;" date and place not given]

[Text] There are few countries to which the USSR devotes such attention as to China. The wish and readiness to establish much better relations and to normalize party connections are obviously great. Several days ago Igor Rogachev told foreign journalists accredited in Moscow that the time is ripe for party relations to be reestablished. He stressed that this will happen sooner or later—but that it certainly will.

This is why we asked Igor Rogachev, who is responsible for relations with Asian countries in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, to tell VJESNIK about the Sino-Soviet negotiations, border issues, expected mutual concessions, and relations with Japan.

Igor Rogachev, a 56-year old career diplomat, is a deputy foreign minister. He has been in diplomatic service since 1956. His first post was in China. He had been an assistant at the Soviet Embassy in Beijing for 5 years, until 1961. Then he spent 4 years in a Foreign Ministry Main Department in the USSR. Between 1964 and 1969 he was an assistant at the Soviet Embassy in the United States, and then returned to China. Between 1969 and 1972 he held the post of counselor at the embassy in Beijing.

On his return from China, he was first in charge of the Southeast Asia Department, and then of the Far East Department.

Rogachev is an expert on China. He spent 15 years there.

"I was only 2 months old when my father, a sinologist, was posted to China. I spent 6 years in China as a child and then another 9 years when I worked at the embassy. I also visited China on many other occasions as a member of various delegations," Rogachev said.

Of all the Soviet diplomats, Rogachev is the most fluent in Chinese. That is why he is called the Russian with a Chinese accent.

[Vlahovic] We are interested in how you view the fact that at a time when the Soviets and the Chinese do not have party relations, Gorbachev's book is published in Beijing and Deng Xiaoping's book in Moscow. Until recently this was inconceivable.

[Rogachev] This is too formal a way of approaching this question. We also publish books by Western authors, those authors who do not have any connection with socialism. We are interested in what the Chinese write about, and they are interested in what is happening in the USSR, in how restructuring [Russian word perestroyka used] works in practice. These are the reasons for the publication of these books. But I agree with you that something like this was inconceivable earlier.

[Vlahovic] Gorbachev's recent interview with a Chinese daily also demonstrates the Soviet interest in establishing better relations, particularly party relations. We would like to confirm our impression—it seems to us that the Soviets are showing more initiative, more interest than the Chinese....

[Rogachev] I agree that in his interview Gorbachev confirmed that relations are improving. Recently, ties and contacts have become more frequent in all spheres. In the last 4-5 years much has been done, particularly in the fields of economics, science, and culture. The Sino-Soviet dialogue now has a permanent nature.

It is thought in the USSR, and Gorbachev spoke openly about it, that a summit could be a logical outcome of a dialogue. Obviously it is too early to talk about specific dates and places for a Sino-Soviet summit.

I would like to point out that an improvement in relations between the USSR and China is the result of joint efforts and wishes. Both countries are of the opinion that it is necessary to improve relations. The USSR and China are working on many similar problems. They have vast experiences and the exchange of views and cooperation could only be beneficial.

[Vlahovic] In his book "Perestroyka, New Thinking for Our Country and the World," Gorbachev writes about the USSR's mistakes in relations with some socialist countries, among them China. Could the fact that the Chinese are not in a hurry to establish party relations be interpreted as caution against old postulates?

[Rogachev] We are ready to establish relations with China in all fields. We proceed from the fact that what is happening in the USSR and China can be a good basis for extending relations and cooperation between the two parties. But we are not forcing the issue. We are ready for a summit when the Chinese are.

As far as interparty relations are concerned, I would like to cite Gorbachev's words, which characterize the CPSU approach to this question. At a dinner in honor of the LCY delegation on 10 December 1986, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said: "No single party has a monopoly [certificat] on absolute truth. Only the socio-historic process can be the supreme judge regarding theory, and the main criterion are the results of socioeconomic development, the strengthening of socialism in practice. We believe in the fraternal parties' interest in exchanging experiences and using values created by the people in socialism...."

[Vlahovic] Is it realistic to expect that Gorbachev will visit China next year?

[Rogachev] It is too early to talk about the date and place of the summit meeting.

[Vlahovic] In Vladivostok Gorbachev said that the USSR is ready to discuss outstanding questions regarding the border. He stressed that concessions are a possibility. Could you tell us more about the negotiations on border issues?

[Rogachev] Since Gorbachev spoke in Vladivostok on 28 July 1986, two rounds of negotiations have been held. The first was in February last year in Moscow and the second in August in Beijing. No one knows how many more rounds of negotiations will be held. Recently, a

group of experts met in Moscow. At the moment, there are seven Chinese in our country who are conferring with our experts on the photographing of the border areas from the air. They will talk in March and April. They will start photographing the eastern part of the border from the air in May of this year.

Once all these photographs have been taken and the documentation collected together, the delegations will receive the information necessary for the negotiations.

The first negotiations with the Chinese on border issues took place in 1964. They lasted 8 months with interruptions. Negotiations began again in 1969, then stopped in 1978 and, in 1987, they began again.

One should know that the present border between the USSR and China was set 100 years ago. Much has changed since then. Anyone who has been on the river Amur at least once can see how powerful it is; in the rainy season especially, it carries everything with it. The Amur changes direction—it destroys the surroundings and makes new little islands. In some places we cannot even find the border markers. There is much work ahead of us.

It is now too early to say which concessions will be made by each side. Everything must be analyzed in detail.

[Vlahovic] If it is not a secret, could you tell us how many Soviet troops were killed during the now distant conflict with the Chinese on the border rivers?

[Rogachev] Believe me, I do not know that information. We do not have such statistics in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Those in the Ministry of Defense should know that, but I am certain that even they would have to hunt through the archives. I know, I remember, that some people were posthumously given the Order of National Hero. Medals were also awarded....

[Vlahovic] The Chinese have claimed for years that there are objective obstacles to improving relations with the USSR. According to them, the main problems are: border issues, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The USSR is now trying to solve some of these problems. Which, in your opinion, is the most difficult of these contentious questions?

[Rogachev] As far as we are concerned, we do not think in categories of obstacles. We talk to our Chinese comrades: We are open about every dialogue, about all issues. As you have seen, the Soviet Union is doing much to solve the question of Afghanistan. Recently, there have been noticeable improvements in Cambodia. The main thing is that these processes are not halted....

Speaking in general, difficulties and problems exist between the Soviet Union and China, to which we do not want to close our eyes. In our country, people agree with what Gorbachev said: "By meeting each other, we can find a solution which is acceptable to both sides."

[Vlahovic] What can you say about the replacement of obsolete Soviet technology, which was sold to China a long time ago? As far as economic ties are concerned, the Chinese complain that you are selling them lower quality goods.

[Rogachev] As far as the quality is concerned, more and more attention is now being paid to this, both in our country and in China. As we will be producing better goods for ourselves, goods of a higher quality will be sold to others.

I remember that an interstate agreement was signed in 1985 between the USSR and China on economic and technical cooperation. New technology is being sold to the Chinese on the basis of this document. This involves the modernization of the railroad, thermoelectric power stations, many chemical factories, and so on. This year, the scope of cooperation should be double what it was last year. The entire economic cooperation should be 2 and 1/2 times greater than last year.

[Vlahovic] Could an improvement in relations with China adversely affect relations with the United States? Will the better relations between two socialist countries frighten the West?

[Rogachev] Our principle is to strive to maintain good relations with all countries and not to go for an improvement with some to the detriment of others. Vietnam and India are traditionally our friends. We will continue to be friends, regardless of how relations work out with others. On the other hand, the Chinese have their own friends. I believe that an improvement in relations between China and the USSR will not scare the capitalist world.

[Vlahovic] The Soviet Union's relations with Japan have again cooled after the espionage affairs. What can you say about that?

[Rogachev] As is well-known, there was a great anti-Soviet campaign in Japan last summer. The Japanese authorities took steps that had a negative influence on our mutual relations. After great efforts were made, relations had nevertheless improved by the end of the year. We constantly stress that we are for good-neighborly relations with Japan. We also want greater cooperation. I said that recently to our Japanese colleagues at a meeting on mutual economic cooperation.

[Vlahovic] Gorbachev once said that he would like to visit Japan. What are the possibilities of the general secretary going there?

[Rogachev] We are in favor of a dialogue with Japan. A summit meeting would be useful. However, the first summit meeting in the history of our relations must be well prepared and substantive. It is understandable that for a successful meeting, a good atmosphere should exist on both sides.

[Vlahovic] How correct are the claims that the four small islands claimed by Japan create problems in your mutual relations? Are these little islands really the main obstacle?

[Rogachev] I think that such claims are not true. In the seventies we cooperated quite well in all fields. Even at that time the Japanese had pretensions toward the southern part of the Kurile islands. This did not stop the Japanese leadership from soberly looking at reality and concerning themselves with their economic and other interests in their relations with the USSR. On the other hand, the present Japanese leadership has restricted economic and scientific technical links not only with the USSR but also with other socialist countries. Therefore, this obviously does not involve "four little islands," as you said.

We reject all Japanese territorial pretensions. However, at the same time, we offer cooperation, and we are interested in good-neighborly relations.

Wu Xueqian Completes Discussions in U.S.

LD100911 Moscow TASS in English 0749 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 10 TASS—Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has completed talks in the United States. The minister met with President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and a number of businessmen.

On Wednesday, Wu Xueqian held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington. The minister expressed satisfaction with the Soviet-American summit meeting held in Washington last December and the signing of the INF Treaty.

"With the recent U.S.-Soviet summit meeting and the signing of the INF Treaty, U.S.-Soviet relations have eased to a certain degree. This is a welcome development," he said.

"We hope that these two nuclear powers will continue to hold serious negotiations on disarmament in other areas and reach agreement thereon for actual implementation so as to realise drastic arms reductions at the earliest possible date," the Chinese official said.

"As a nuclear state China will never shirk its responsibility for disarmament," he observed.

"Its fundamental position on disarmament is complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons and the concurrent nuclear disarmament and conventional disarmament with the two promoting each other."

Describing his Washington talks as successful on the whole, Wu Xueqian stated that there were quite a few problems in Chinese-American relations and that it was necessary to look for ways of their solution.

He singled out the problem of Taiwan. Stressing that China's policy providing for "peaceful national re-unification" remained unchanged, the minister said that "the U.S. Government has reiterated on many occasions that it pursues a one-China policy. We hope that these statements will be put into practice."

Zhao: CPC Will End Leaders' Lifelong Tenure

PM101311 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own Correspondent Yu. Savenkov report: "Cadre Changes Imminent"]

[Text] Beijing—The CPC Central Committee plenum to be held in March before the opening of the first session of the Seventh National People's Congress [NPC] in Beijing on 25 March will discuss changes in the state leadership.

This has been announced by Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, in an interview with T. Hitotsuyanagi, chief editor of ASAHI. The main directions of the changes in the leading organs of state power were formulated at the 13th CPC Congress last fall. Zhao Ziyang stressed that the system of lifelong tenure of leading posts will cease to exist.

The CPC Central Committee plenum will recommend candidates to leading posts of the NPC session and delegates will make the final decision. The development of the planned and commodity economies, Zhao Ziyang noted, requires a demarcation between the functions of party and government organs and the granting of greater independence to local organs.

MPR, DPRK, PRC, USSR Sign Railway Accord

OW100834 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The volume of export, import, and transit goods for railway transportation between the Soviet Union, Mongolia, China, and the DPRK has risen rapidly this year, with the Ulaanbaatar railways recording a 16 percent increase in transit goods over last year. This was pointed out in a protocol signed by representatives of the transportation and foreign trade offices of the four

countries. Participants in the meeting paid particular attention to ways of improving coordination between railway workers of the four nations and correctly fulfilling the agreement.

Northeast Asia

Yakovlev Begins Visit to Ulaanbataar

LD140813 Moscow TASS in English 0809 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left here for Ulaanbataar today for a working visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, and to attend a meeting of the secretaries of the central committees of fraternal parties for ideological matters.

Afanasyev, Kovalenko Depart for Japan

LD131724 Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—Viktor Afanasyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, editor-in-chief of the newspaper PRAVDA, and Ivan Kovalenko, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, left by air for Tokyo today at the invitation of the Japanese Communists for consultations between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Japan.

Japanese 'Northern Territories' Campaign Viewed

PM111203 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Feb 88 First Edition p 3

[A. Lazarev dispatch under the "We Report the Details" rubric: "Choirmaster Unmasked. Under Cover of Struggling for the 'Return of the Northern Territories' Japanese Rightists Are Whipping Up Anti-Soviet Sentiments"; first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "I know that a so-called 'Northern Territories Day' took place in Japan on 7 February. I saw a report about this on television. Nonetheless, I could not fully understand why the government and various groups in this country are venturing to contest international decisions. Could you not talk about this in more detail? P. Vasilyev, Ryazan"

Tokyo—On 7 February the police closed off access to the USSR Embassy and other Soviet establishments in Japan. Gray armored buses stood at neighboring intersections. Special steel spikes were put in place in advance to block thoroughfares. No fuss, everything according to a clearly organized plan. This was the eighth time that the country had held a "United Action Day for the Return of the Northern Territories." Both the police and those involved in the events themselves have already acquired enough experience to predict to within a few minutes what would happen and where, an APN correspondent in Japan told us at our request.

This is how it happened. A cavalcade of propaganda vehicles from various rightist organizations wound round the Soviet Embassy and cries in Japanese and broken Russian, abuse, and threats, interspersed with "musical interludes"—patriotic songs and military marches dating back 50 years—resounded from powerful loudspeakers round adjacent blocks. The police turned a deaf ear to the rightists' insults against a state with whom Japan maintains diplomatic relations: "Freedom of speech" exists in the country. Everyone can shout what he wants.

"We condemn such actions by extreme rightists," Toshio Sasaki, general secretary of the "Japanese World Strategy Forum," told me. "By their scandalous actions they provoke only discontent among the population and discredit an important cause. In terms of its political orientation our 'forum' is also a rightist organization. If our aims and those of the 'extremists' tally on the whole, the methods they use in their actions are alien to us. We are rather one of the intellectual, theoretical centers for rightist forces."

Sasaki received me in the "forum's" headquarters—a small room in a modern apartment block in the Shinjuku area of Tokyo. The well-groomed 29-year old young man in an austere dark blue three-piece suit seemed to bear no resemblance to the hooligan "extremists" on the streets. But the arguments put forward during the conversation by this graduate from the law faculty of one of the country's provincial universities was little different from the slogans daubed over the extremists' propaganda vehicle. Nor did he conceal his hatred of the Soviet Union.

"We are in a state of war with the USSR," Sasaki stressed. "The Soviet-Japanese declaration signed in 1956 on the normalization of relations between our countries is only a bilateral document and is not internationally recognized. A peace treaty alone can put an end to the war between our countries. And Japan will not sign such a treaty until our territorial claims are satisfied."

It has to be admitted that owing to the efforts of official propaganda the campaign of claims to Soviet territories has assumed quite a broad scale—nearly 100 organizations with approximately 50 million members are involved in it—using funds which have been generously granted by the government. However, it is no secret that the figure is clearly exaggerated. The count includes so-called "collective members." If, for instance, the president of the car giant "Toyota" states his support for the movement and makes the appropriate donations,

then all the concern's workers and employees, even those who have no interest in the problem in question, automatically become activists in the "struggle for the return of the northern territories."

This struggle, which was previously extremely sluggish, definitely livened up in the early eighties. At that time prominent state officials, including prime ministers and foreign ministers, began to carry out "inspection trips to familiarize themselves with the northern territories"—examinations from military cutters of the shores of the southern islands of the Kurile Archipelago.

Few of the Soviet people who live on Kunashir, Iturup, Habomai, or Shikotan know, for example, that the mayor of the Japanese city of Nemuro has arbitrarily included Soviet islands in his administrative district and has proclaimed his jurisdiction over this part of USSR territory. Such provocative outbursts could perhaps be ignored. After all, there's virtually nothing new under the sun. But the problem is that official Tokyo has decided to make the entire complex of Japanese-Soviet relations dependent on territorial claims.

The Japanese authorities have attempted to transform the Soviet country's interest in the development of friendly contacts with Japan—political, economic, scientific, and cultural—into a kind of lever for pressure, and sometimes for unconcealed blackmail regarding the Soviet Union. Like the Roman Senator Cato, who used to begin and end all his public speeches on any subject with a demand to destroy Carthage, so Japanese politicians try to drag territorial demands into almost every bilateral problem. They do not have any particular hope of fulfilling their desires, but it is considered unpatriotic not to mention the "northern territories" in a conversation with Soviet people.

"We will demand the return to Japan of the Kurile Islands for 100, 200 years," T. Sasaki, told me. "We do not feel particularly optimistic, but we will fight till the end."

There are few soberminded politicians in this country who doubt the futility of such actions. Furthermore, there are a number of people who consider Japan's territorial claims to be a destabilizing factor in international relations. But anyone who dares to make such an assessment instantly finds himself in an artificial vacuum. He is immediately labeled a traitor to the fatherland.

The provocative actions of rightist ideologists and the hooligan escapades of extremists by no means exhaust the forms of "struggle for the northern territories." The GUNJI KENKYU magazine, which is close to the Japan Defense Agency, published 18 months ago the ideas of certain members of the Japanese military on the possibility of winning back the four islands by force. The idea fell on fertile ground. Calls to all "patriots" to enroll as volunteers in assault detachments to liberate the "captured Japanese lands" appeared in the extreme rightists' propaganda broadcast over their mobile loudspeakers.

"What is the attitude of your 'forum' to such an idea?" I asked the "intellectual rightists'" representative.

Sasaki dreamily rolled his eyes.

"This would, of course, be the ideal solution to the problem. But we do not have enough forces. If Japan brings its military potential to a level comparable to the Soviet level, then..."

"The Japanese World Strategy Forum," it emerges, is devoting many efforts to this. Retired military diplomats, well known political scientists, and representatives of the ruling party, including former Prime Minister Fukuda, who are members of the "forum" are endeavoring to foist on the authorities their ideas of foreign and domestic policy. The hardening of Japan's position with regard to the Soviet Union must, in their opinion, be accompanied by a buildup in its military might. For this the members of the "forum" propose the revocation of Japan's nonnuclear principles and the bans on the export of weapons, the sending of Japanese servicemen abroad, and the country's involvement in collective defense. It is also proposed that the restrictions on military appropriations from the state budget be abandoned. To be fair I must mention that these tasks have already been largely implemented, if not de jure then de facto. In order to assess this "intellectual center's" level of authority, I can say that its president is K. Sugita, former chief of staff of the ground "Self-Defense Forces."

"What is the extent of Japan's territorial claims on the USSR?"

"Every organization has its own ideas about this," Sasaki said. "Some people think that it is more sensible to confine ourselves only to claiming the small Kurile group—the island of Shikotan and the Habomai archipelago. Many people express solidarity with the position of the government, which is demanding that four islands be handed over to Japan. I personally think that we must not rest until we get back all the Kurile islands and the southern part of Sakhalin."

It is remarkable that the Ministry of Education shares this kind of maximalist viewpoint voiced by the rightists. In some places by allusion and in others overtly they implant revanchist ideas in school primers and geography maps.

"So will you be satisfied when you have returned to prewar borders?" I asked Sasaki.

"Ideas are being voiced about broader claims. But this is as yet unfeasible," he replied.

So. Right-wing ideologists are, it emerges, planning a long-term campaign of territorial claims on the USSR. Whatever results are achieved in the course of mutual talks, a new goal will always be found to fan anti-Soviet sentiments in the country. The Japanese ruling circles' main plan is easily visible behind all the uproar about the "northern territories"—to rally people together in the face of the albeit imaginary "enemy outside" and revive nationalism and chauvinism, which will make it possible to cure the nation of the "pacifist syndrome."

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Condolences Sent to SRV on Pham Hung Death

Party-Government Message

LD122320 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers have sent profound condolences to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and to all Vietnamese working people on the death of Comrade Pham Hung, member of the Politburo of the CPV Central Committee and the chairman of the Republic's Council of Ministers. A representative of the glorious cohort of Vietnamese communist revolutionaries, a close comrade in arms of Ho Chi Minh, and an illustrious leader of the CPV and of the Vietnamese state, Comrade Pham Hung, devoted his entire life to the struggle of the Vietnamese people for the freedom and independence of their country, and to the cause of building socialism in Vietnam.

Even as they share the pain of bereavement with the Vietnamese people, Soviet people are filled with determination to continue to strengthen the indestructible friendship between the USSR and Vietnam.

The radiant memory of Comrade Pham Hung, a fervent Vietnamese patriot, a staunch communist and internationalist, and a great friend to the Soviet Union, will live forever in our hearts, the telegram reads.

Talyzin Leads Delegation to Hanoi

LD131725 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] A party and government delegation from the Soviet Union headed by Comrade Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, left Moscow for Hanoi today to attend the funeral of Pham Hung, member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet presidium, and other officials.

Briefs

Reception for New Zealand Envoy

Moscow March 11 TASS—On March 10 Valentina Shevchenko, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received Alison Vale Stokes, New Zealand ambassador, in connection with her final departure from the Soviet Union and had a talk with her. The ambassador's attention was called to the Soviet Union's foreign policy initiatives aimed at removing the nuclear threat and strengthening international peace and security, including in the Asian and Pacific region. The sides also touched on issues of developing bilateral Soviet-New Zealand relations in various spheres. [Text] *[Moscow TASS in English 1133 GMT 11 Mar 88 LD]*

Near East & South Asia

Afghan-Pakistani Talks Resume in Geneva

Cordovez Meets Delegates

LD141553 Moscow TASS in English 1526 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva March 14 TASS—The Afghan-Pakistani talks conducted through the U.N. secretary-general's personal representative Diego Cordovez were resumed here today.

Cordovez met with the heads of the Pakistani and Afghan delegations, Zain Noorani and 'Abdul Wakil.

The Afghan-Pakistani talks began on March 2. They are concerned with issues of settling the situation related to Afghanistan. The Afghan side repeatedly expressed readiness to achieve specific agreements on issues under discussion.

U.S. Increases Arms to Rebels

PM141053 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Trying To Use Missiles To Reach a Settlement"]

[Text] Washington, 10 Mar—Just before the start of the next, crucial round in the Afghan-Pakistani Geneva talks, the United States has sharply increased its secret transfer of arms and ammunition to armed, antigovernment formations in Afghanistan. THE WASHINGTON TIMES carried a report on this, citing a high-ranking representative of the American intelligence services.

According to the newspaper, supplies of American weapons, primarily "Stinger" antiaircraft missiles, have been increased for six of the seven large groupings in the Afghan armed opposition.

This is precisely the time when, according to AP, the Geneva talks on this problem are entering "the most important and possibly decisive stage." In these conditions the increased flow of arms from across the ocean to groups fighting against the Afghan Government is being accompanied by an intensified, malicious anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan campaign in the United States intended to wreck the planned settlement. During recent debates on Capitol Hill, Republican Senator S. Simms frankly said that they "should be in no hurry to reach an agreement" on this problem. On the initiative of a number of legislators, on 29 February the U.S. Senate gave a majority vote in favor of approving a resolution—not legally binding—which essentially presents a detailed list of conditions for an "acceptable settlement of the situation in Afghanistan" that would comply with Washington's demands.

The Reagan administration is itself beginning to alter its stand by putting forward additional conditions for terminating American military aid to antigovernment forces in Afghanistan. As U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz said recently, Washington now intends to insist that the Soviet Union cease all aid to the Afghan government at the same time as the United States terminates military aid to antigovernment armed groups.

U.S. Defense Secretary F. Carlucci stressed at the congressional hearings: "We do not intend to terminate our aid simply because the Soviet Union is to end its military aid to the Afghan regime." He explained this attitude by saying that the United States "has to be sure that the troops are really being withdrawn and that the withdrawal is irreversible."

U.S. Makes 'Additional Demands'

LD131959 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Text] At the start of my review of events, I mentioned certain major events which are due to take place next week. However, there is one thing that we expected to happen on 15 March but which is unlikely to happen on time. I mean the signing of a range of agreements on Afghanistan by Afghan and Pakistani representatives now in Geneva. We know from the statement made by Comrade Gorbachev on 8 February that if an agreement is signed on 15 March, 2 months later on 15 May Soviet troops will begin withdrawing from Afghanistan. The agreements are ready and the Afghan Government is ready to sign, but Pakistan is still refusing and is still saying that it would prefer to sign them with another transitional government. Washington, which together with Moscow is to be the guarantor of the agreements, is also continuing to refrain from dotting the i's and is making additional demands on the USSR.

Afghan Party Figure on Talks

LD141440 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Berlin March 14 TASS—Afghan people and all peace forces expected the current round of Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva to produce a political solution to a long-standing problem, which will restore peace to the region, Najmuddin Akhgar Khawiani, a member of the Political Bureau and a secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), told a news conference here today.

He said such hopes are justified as the proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of Afghanistan's Revolutionary Council, have left no open issues regarding the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Najmuddin Akhgar Khawiani added, however, that the unconstructive position of Pakistan, which is continuing to put forward ever new conditions, is a stumbling block in the way of the negotiations.

He said, for example, that Pakistan is insisting on the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan in a bid to lead its placement to power there. But the Afghan people strongly reject such attempts, the Afghan party leader said.

He stressed that the issue of forming a government was an internal one for Afghanistan and outside the scope of the Geneva talks.

Afghan Scene on Eve of Geneva Talks Viewed

PM141021 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 88 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Okulov dispatch: "Kabul at the Hour of Geneva"]

[Text] Kabul, March—It is a long way from Kabul to Geneva, but these days the Afghan and Swiss capitals are linked in a special way. Even though, because of illiteracy and backwardness, far from everyone among the mass of the people here even knows of that distant city in Europe where the Afghan-Pakistani talks are being held, what is happening on the shores of Lake Geneva is getting through to people's minds in its own way, giving rise to hopes for peace. Although the circumstances of these talks are not quite clear to many people, and although not everyone understands the subtleties of the problems involved in a political settlement around Afghanistan, on the whole Afghans realize that something very important for their existence is under way.

And what could be more important than steps bringing closer to peace a people whose lives have for umpteen years been flattened by the tragic roller of the fratricidal war skillfully kindled and maintained by external imperialist interference? So the expectation of beneficial changes in the situation inside and around the country connected with the Soviet and Afghan leaders' initiatives is, perhaps, keener than it was even less than 2 years ago, when there was great hope of quick and radical peacemaking movements following the government's announcement of a unilateral cease-fire.

These sentiments stood out clearly at a recent rally of 100,000 people in downtown Kabul. Various people addressed it: representatives of the country's leading public organizations, members of the clergy, and refugees who have returned to the motherland. But they were all unanimous in their assessments of the moment, which were summed up as follows in the rally participants' appeal to the United Nations, to the peoples and governments of the region, and to all peace-loving forces: We believe that the round of Afghan-Pakistani talks which has begun can be successful and that a historic opportunity to establish peace and tranquility in our land will not be missed. The appeal declares the people's support for the policy of national reconciliation, which the country's government is implementing "on the basis of the holy religion of Islam." It also emphasizes that the Afghans want to control their destiny themselves.

I would like to draw readers' attention to a thought expressed in President Najibullah's speech at the rally. Speaking of the state authority's attitude to the commanders of the armed opposition formations operating inside the country, the president said that "although they have not yet laid down their arms, they deserve our respect because they have not left their land. And therefore they take priority in forming the future coalition government in Afghanistan."

Patriotic forces were represented at the rally not only by the PDPA leader and his associates, but also by the leadership of the Revolutionary Organization of Afghan Working People, the Afghan Working People's Organization, the People's Islamic Party of Afghanistan, and the Peasant Justice Party.

In his speech, President Najibullah sharply criticized the leaders of the "Peshawar Seven" who, from outside the country, are trying to pretend to be the fathers of the people and monopolize the right to defend Islam, while they themselves wallow in corruption and grow fabulously rich on money allocated to refugees.

I do not think that the crowd of 100,000 rally participants contained only active supporters of the PDPA. The opinions of ordinary residents of Kabul with whom I have chatted during these days attest that they are far from unanimous in their views on how the situation in the country will develop. Some of them look to the future with confidence, while others consider the state authority's positions to be weak. However, even those who voiced misgivings about this are in no doubt that the legitimate government of Afghanistan today is not outside but inside the country. People have spoken to me of the people's growing confidence in it. The statistics of national reconciliation attest that 3,200 villages have passed under state control by peaceful means since this policy was proclaimed, and approximately 120,000 refugees have returned to the motherland—25 times more than in previous years! Some 40,000 armed members of opposition formations have sided with the government.

At an important hour—the hour of Geneva—life in the country is taking its course. Attempts are being made in the economy to consolidate the definite animation which became apparent in production from the first months of the current Afghan year, which will end 21 March. The private sector of the economy is developing. According to information from the Government Commission on Private Capital Investments, 133 new enterprises were founded in this sector during 1987, and they will employ 6,000 workers. The new apartment blocks which have appeared in Bibi Mahru, Kabul's fourth city district, are a sign of creative work which gladdens the eye.

The Soviet Union's economic assistance in the form of deliveries of goods and the system of coupons that exists in the country in the distribution of foodstuffs at stable prices play an important role in halting inflationary processes and rising prices for consumer goods and services.

Efforts are being stepped up to realize direct ties between USSR regions and the Republic of Afghanistan. Emissaries from Kirgizia have just held talks in Kabul with partners from Vardak and Bamian Provinces. The protocol that was signed on cooperation in 1988 provides for an increase in patronal assistance in various sectors of the economy and the social sphere in the Afghan provinces.

On 5 March the new academic year will begin in Afghan schools with the traditional lesson on the subjects of "Peace" and "Motherland." Last year 35 percent of school-age children entered the first grade on territory controlled by the people's power, but this year their numbers will increase to 40 percent. That is a very good figure under present conditions.

Education Minister 'A.S. Qayyumi related a curious story. The Baghlan Province Public Education Department received a letter from Ghayur, the local commander of an opposition armed detachment, asking it to send textbooks, Korans, school equipment, good teachers, and public education inspectors to the villages controlled by him to monitor the quality of the children's instruction. The letter stated that the visitors' safety, honor, and respect would be ensured. This is not the only case and, in my view, it is of considerable importance. The armed opposition, which had grown accustomed

only to fighting, is now having increasingly to encounter creative tasks and resolve questions of the peaceful development of the villages under its control. How are they to be realized? This question inevitably brings the most intelligent to another conclusion—is the state authority so bad, when it resolves these tasks to the best of its ability?

I will stipulate once again: the most intelligent. It would be naive to think that life teaches everyone to be intelligent. There is much evidence to the contrary—for example, the rocket shells fired at Kabul at night by "intransigents."

Information is reaching Kabul that during the days preceding Geneva there was an increase in the flow of weapons being delivered to armed opposition detachments from abroad. Weapons dumps and bases have begun to be moved from Pakistani territory to Afghan soil. New dumps are being constructed in mountain regions. Interference in the republic's internal affairs is not ceasing but, rather, is intensifying.

"How did our internationalist servicemen perceive the Soviet and Afghan leaders' statements on Afghanistan?" I put this question to the headquarters of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan.

"The high assessment of the mission of the Soviet troops serving in Afghanistan," came the reply, "strengthens our determination to finish fulfilling our international duty on Afghan soil with dignity and honor. The soldiers support and approve the efforts for a political solution of the problems around Afghanistan."

"On what are the opposition military forces engaged now?"

"Let us note the intention of the 'Peshawar Seven' leaders: to try to create as many stocks of weapons and combat hardware as possible on Afghan territory before the Geneva accords come into force, so that the ending of foreign interference does not have a noticeable effect on the opposition groups' armament. Contradictions among the opposition forces' armed groupings have intensified."

"What tasks is the limited contingent of our troops now fulfilling?"

"We are intercepting weapons convoys proceeding from Pakistan. We are guarding lines of communication, escorting transport columns, and destroying fire points from which peaceful population centers are fired on. There is also a strictly peaceful side to the activities of the limited contingent of our troops. We are increasing the distribution of free Soviet aid to the population via agitprop detachments. Medical battalions, hospitals, and agitation detachment doctors receive the population—we do not refuse anyone assistance."

...It is a long way from Kabul to Geneva. But a special link exists between them today, and we want this link to be marked by the sign of peace.

Differences Heightened Among Afghan Opposition

LD131008 Moscow TASS in English 0954 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi March 13 TASS—Yunis Khalis, the leader of the Alliance of Seven, which affiliates the forces of armed Afghan opposition, acting from Pakistan's territory, has resigned. According to reports reaching here, the decision was taken on "health grounds". Earlier it was reported about the intention to withdraw from the "Alliance" of the leader of the so-called "National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan", Sebghatullah Mojadeddi.

It is noted here that differences and struggle for leadership have recently heightened within the Afghan opposition camp. The alliance's relations with the Pakistani authorities grew more complicated. The Pakistani authorities, said Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, exert "very strong political and material pressure" and support "implacable" formations in their struggle against "moderate" groups.

Following the statements by the leaders of the USSR and Afghanistan on settlement of the Afghan problem, the opposing side and Pakistan's administration have been in confusion and cannot put forward anything to oppose Kabul's constructive stand, the Afghan news agency BAKHTAR says.

Najibullah Reports to National Front Plenum

PM141229 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] Kabul, 7 Mar—An extraordinary extended plenum of the Afghan National Front Central Council has been held here. It discussed organizational issues and made several changes to the front's statute. It also discussed and ratified the National Front's draft platform. In particular, the draft defines the main directions and principles of this association's activity. For example, in the political sphere it notes the need to make every effort to defend the country's national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and contribute to the task of propagandizing the national reconciliation policy and ending the fratricidal war. In the social sphere, defense of the people's rights and freedoms is placed in the forefront. With regard to international relations, the front's main task is to uphold the principles of nonalignment and support the policy of the republic's government, which is aimed at defending peace in the region and throughout the world.

Addressing the plenum, Republic of Afghanistan President Najibullah stressed that the Afghan government is making serious efforts to ensure that military problems are solved peacefully—through negotiation and without outside interference.

Afghanistan's principled, constructive stand was once again reflected in the February statements by the Afghan and Soviet leadership.

The people have reached a turning point in their life, the Afghan leader continued. The role played by the National Front is very important in creating conditions favorable to the establishment of peace in the country. The main aspects of activity of this, Afghanistan's largest social organization, are to ensure peace and work to form and strengthen the coalition of sociopolitical forces in the country.

We are on the point of electing the National Council, Najibullah noted. The elections will be held nationwide and involve everyone. The draft law and the composition of the electoral commission are already prepared, and working groups have been set up to give assistance at grassroots level. Letters will be sent to the opposite side so that it elects worthy people acceptable to it to the National Council in conformity with legal norms. Certain leaders of foreign refugee centers will also be invited to become members of our parliament. We will keep a certain number of seats for them.

In conclusion the president emphasized that the National Front is bound to act as the true mouthpiece of national interests and as a unifying, coordinating center.

Moscow Gorispolkom Delegation Arrives in Kabul
LD141051 Moscow TASS Internatioanal Service in Russian 0612 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, 14 Mar (TASS)—A delegation from the Moscow Gorispolkom led by Valeriy Saykin, chairman of the Executive Committee, arrived in Kabul today. The delegation will have talks with Afghan officials and will sign an agreement on cooperation between the two capitals, Moscow and Kabul, for the years 1988-90.

The delegation was met at the airport by Muhammad Hakim, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan; Daud Razmyar, first secretary of the Kabul City Party Committee; and Adina Sangin, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Kabul Council of People's Representatives.

Fight Against Afghan Drug Traders Reported
LD132137 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] And now Afghanistan. The forces of people's power in Afghanistan are fighting not only with the armed units of the counterrevolution. They must also combat elements which are taking advantage of the military situation which has evolved in the country. The internal affairs organs of Afghanistan have carried out a number of successful operations against drug smugglers. A report on this by our Kabul correspondent Mikhail Leshchinskiy.

[Leshchinskiy] The war in Afghanistan has aggravated many human vices and has increased the number of various criminal manifestations. It remains a mystery to us—how have criminal investigation officers managed to find a cache in these daub slums, where several hundred kilograms of hashish were stored? And on this invisible, but for that no less dangerous and bloody front, a daily, hourly struggle is underway. Here too, it is necessary to fight a duel with forces operating far beyond the borders of Afghanistan, across which they try to carry large batches of narcotics contraband from Pakistan to Europe and across the Atlantic.

[Begin recording of General Azizi, head of criminal investigation for the Afghan Ministry of Internal Affairs, in vernacular fading into Russian translation] The criminal routes undoubtedly stem from those places in Pakistan where the camps of the Afghan opposition are located, for example, Peshawar, Quetta, and they try to dispatch the drugs to the West via the ports of Hayratan, Torghondi, Sherkhan, and through Kabul airport. Over the last 10 months, we have seized more than 31 tonnes of drugs to a value, by black market prices, of more than $1 billion. We have already set up 22 special subdivisions throughout the country for combatting drug smuggling. We receive considerable help in this work from the competent organs of the USSR. They assist in training personnel and mastering equipment. I am sure that a peaceful settlement around Afghanistan would also contribute to a victory in the struggle against the major international organizations of traders in drugs. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Receives Iranian Ambassador
PM140943 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Reception of Ambassador"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze received N. Heirani-Nobari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Soviet Union, on 11 March at the latter's request. In the course of the conversation, questions relating to the present status of Soviet-Iranian relations and also the Iran-Iraq armed conflict, which has recently intensified, were discussed.

Gulf War Escalation 'Benefits Israel'
PM141031 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Shevchenko dispatch under the "We Report the Details" rubric: "Missiles Strike the Cities"]

[Text] Kuwait—"The war of the cities has reached its apogee"—this is how the local press comments on the latest flare-up of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

In the last 3 days the Iraqis have fired more than 20 missiles at Tehran. Two missiles struck the city of Qom, the Shi'ite religious center where Ayatollah Khomeyni's residence is to be found. In their turn the Iranians are bombarding Baghdad and Basra. Apartment blocks are collapsing. There are dead and wounded among the inhabitants of both capitals. According to IRNA, 60 people have died and more than 100 have been wounded during the raids on Tehran.

"We witnessed a real nightmare," Ilnur Cevik, editor of Turkey's DAILY NEWS, who was in Tehran during a visit by a Turkish Government delegation headed by Prime Minister T. Ozal, said. "You can hear missiles exploding every 45 minutes. The inhabitants hide in shelters and cellars. Many leave the capital. A powerful explosion occurred near the Hilton Hotel, where foreigners mostly stay. Owing to the bombardment our delegation could not leave Tehran. Only when Iraq stopped its raids for 2 hours following a request from the Turkish side were we able to leave the Iranian capital. What we saw with our own eyes has only reinforced our desire to help put a very speedy end to this conflict," the Turkish journalist said.

Local observers point out that the escalation in the tension between Iran and Iraq benefits Israel and its allies above all. In the present situation the conflict distracts attention from the Palestinian uprising on the Israeli-occupied territories and weakens support from Arab countries for the fighting Palestinian people from Arab countries.

The amir of Kuwait, as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, has urged Iran and Iraq on behalf of the entire Muslim world to immediately cease military operations. He has also sent a message to the UN secretary general and the permanent members of the Security Council, talking about the need to adopt international measures to resolve this lingering conflict.

U.S. Peace Plan Targets Jordan as 'Weak Link'

PM141209 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Mar 88 p 3

[Political observer Sergey Losev "View of Events": "Shultz Mission: At a Standstill"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz returned to the American capital at the end of last week from an urgent visit to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. After his report to President Reagan, a White House spokesman explained that no details of the conversation between the president and the head of the foreign policy department would be published. However, this has not prevented American propaganda from broadly advertising the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Near East and depicting it as nothing less than a "serious attempt" (!) by the administration to "urge on the process of achieving an Arab-Israeli peace accord, which is currently at a standstill."

Fragmentary information has appeared in the press concerning the substance of a draft which Shultz conveyed to the Arab capitals and Jerusalem on President Reagan's behalf. Under this plan, an international conference on the Near East is to be convened in April this year with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members and all interested parties. It does not, however, envisage full and equal participation by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people. It is proposed that the Palestinians form part of a joint delegation with Jordan instead.

If we judged solely by the fact that an international conference has been proposed for April, we could get the impression that there has been a positive change in the U.S. stance. After all, until now the Reagan administration has been against convening such a conference. But this impression is deceptive. In actual fact it transpires that official Washington merely regards the conference as a screen for separate talks primarily between Israel and Jordan, the United States having homed in on the latter as the "weak link" in the Arab world. The plan notes that the conference must be convened for the main purpose of approving the start of the first series of talks between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians on "limited autonomy" for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. As far as Shultz is concerned, these talks must begin on 1 May and be concluded within 6 months. In this case talks on the "definitive status" of the occupied territories would follow in December this year.

This is an attempt to substitute the idea of forming an independent Arab Palestinian state with limited autonomy in the conditions of Israeli occupation, which will continue for a minimum of another 3 years. The American plan glosses over the fate of the Syrian Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, which have been annexed by Israel. The draft makes absolutely no mention of the future of the nearly 200 Israeli paramilitary settlements which have been established in primordial Arab lands since the 1967 war.

The U.S. secretary of state's proposals have prompted a contradictory reaction in the Arab world. The PLO Executive Committee has expressed the opinion that the aim of Shultz' mission was to "end the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories" and, by means of cosmetic changes and gradual concessions, "lower the temperature in the Palestinian camps." The American plan, the Executive Committee pointed out, ignores the Palestinian people and their national right to self-determination and the formation of their own independent state.

In Syria's opinion, the ideas which the secretary of state brought with him cannot lead to a full, just solution of the Near East problem. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that, in Syria's opinion, a settlement is impossible without ending Israeli occupation of all Arab territories and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate national rights.

On the other hand, Egyptian President H. Mubarak has described the American proposals as "encouraging" and requiring "careful study." The United States wants to receive responses to its proposals before the arrival of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir in Washington on 16 March.

One thing is now clear: The Reagan administration does not regard an international conference on the Near East as a representative international forum designed to reach a just, mutually acceptable, comprehensive, lasting settlement of the Near East conflict, but merely as a screen for and a prelude to separate Arab-Israeli talks in the conditions of continuing Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

It is typical that even this concept of a conference has been rejected by Shamir. An Israeli government spokesman told a correspondent that at his meeting with the secretary of state, "Shamir made it quite clear that he is against any idea of convening an international peace conference." According to REUTER, the Likud Party bloc led by Shamir maintains the belief that the territories where limited Palestinian autonomy is to be introduced "must always remain under Israeli sovereignty, and the question of settling Jews in these territories on an unlimited scale must be resolved."

In other words, the head of the Israeli cabinet will only be satisfied with the total annexation of the Israeli-occupied territories, and nothing less. This extremist position has even prompted disagreement on the part of Israeli Foreign Minister S. Peres, who is head of the Labor Party. One cannot rule out the possibility that the Israeli government coalition will break down and an early election be called. THE NEW YORK TIMES has pointed out that "30 senators, many of whom are staunch supporters of Israel, have prepared a letter containing criticism of Israeli Premier Shamir and also his Likud Party for impeding efforts to establish peace in the Near East. Senators are amazed that Shamir is so stubbornly determined not to agree to a proposal envisaging Israeli withdrawal from some of the occupied territories in exchange for peace."

The dangerous Near East hotbed of tension must be removed. The world hopes that the opportunities for a peaceful settlement of the prolonged conflict will not be wasted. In the interests of a peaceful settlement, the Soviet Union and the overwhelming majority of other UN states insist on the earliest possible convening of a full international conference on the Near East. The wheels of this important forum must be urgently set in motion and real steps taken in the direction of a settlement.

Syria's Al-Asad Cables Thanks to Gorbachev

LD141232 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS--Hafiz al-Asad has expressed gratitude to Mikhail Gorbachev and to the CPSU Central Committee for their congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the March 8 revolution.

"We are firmly convinced", says the Syrian leader's telegramme, "that close relations of friendship and cooperation which develop and gain in scope on the basis of the Syrian-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation meet the interests of our peoples and serve the cause of peace and security throughout the world".

"We highly appreciate the support being rendered by the Soviet Union for our struggle for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and for the restoration of the trampled rights of the Arabs".

Envoy Discusses Trade Prospects With Libya

LD111524 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr "Yuriy Zilinitiski", the economy adviser in the Soviet Union Embassy in Great Jamahiriyah [name and title as received], in a press conference at the Soviet wing in Tripoli International Fair yesterday, has reaffirmed the joint co-operation between his country and Great Jamahiriyah.

He adds that they highly appreciate the progressive course taken by Great Jamahiriyah at all levels. He points that the technical, scientific and trade programmes concluded between the two countries has furthered the bilateral co-operation based on common interest and mutual respect. The 2 countries, he reaffirms, are bound by strategic relations and joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

He welcomes the establishment of investment projects in his country.

He asserts that the participation of his country in this fair aims at witnessing the achievements brought about by the Great al-Fatih Revolution and to promote the exchange of trade and strengthen economic relations between the 2 friendly countries.

The director of the Soviet wing has expressed that his country is prepared to participate in implementing the ambitious projects in Great Jamahiriyah and consolidate the industrial base that serves the aspirations of the Libyan Arab people to achieve a better future.

Vorontsov Meets With Arab Ambassadors

LD112022 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Today Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, received a group of the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Moscow—Muhammad 'Abd al-'Uthman, the ambassador of the Yemen Arab Republic, Sa'd 'Abd

al-Majid al-Faysal, the ambassador of Iraq, 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj, the ambassador of Kuwait, and Abderraouf Ounaies, the ambassador of Tunisia. Matters connected with the current sharp aggravation of the Iran-Iraq conflict were considered.

The Arab representatives expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its consistent policy aimed at securing an end to the Iran-Iraq war as soon as possible, and pointed out the importance of further intensification of international efforts with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict on the basis of the implementation of Resolution 598 of the United Nations Security Council.

Yuliy Vorontsov reaffirmed the Soviet Union's steady intention to continue to work vigorously in favour of directing the conflict into the channel of political talks as soon as possible to achieve complete and speedy termination of it. It was emphasized that an end to the 'war of the cities' between Iran and Iraq was an important and realistic step on the way to that.

There was also an exchange of views on a settlement of the Afghanistan situation. The Arab representatives voiced hope that the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva would be successfully completed soon.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola, Cuba Submit Draft Treaty to U.S.

PM141349 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Good-Will Gesture. Consultations on Problems of Southern Africa Held in Angola"]

[Text] Luanda, 13 Mar—Delegations of experts from Angola, Cuba, the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), and the United States have held consultations in Luanda on the questions of achieving peace in southern Africa.

A communique issued here Saturday by the Angolan Foreign Ministry points out that the Angolan-Cuban delegation submitted to the U.S. side a draft four-party agreement (with the participation of Angola, Cuba, the RSA, and SWAPO), with whose help the security of Angola, the independence of Namibia, and the establishment of peace between Angola and the RSA could be ensured by way of talks. This document contains a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola's southern regions and also envisages their phased withdrawal from Angolan territory.

The communique points out that the draft agreement is a good-will gesture on the part of the Angolan and Cuban Governments aimed at resolving the problems of southern Africa through talks. A complete withdrawal of Cuban internationalists from Angola will depend on the fulfillment of a number of conditions, of which the cessation of help from the United States and the RSA to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola is mandatory.

The meetings between the experts were held in a spirit of mutual understanding and were constructive, the communique notes.

Gerasimov Dismisses RSA Offer on Angola

MB111727 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 11 Mar 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Soviet Union this week gave short shrift to a South African suggestion that the two countries might be able to do a direct deal over Angola.

South African troops are in Angola supporting the UNITA rebels, who are trying to topple the Angolan Government, which is backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The idea of a deal was first floated by South African Defense Minister Magnus Malan, who said that if the Soviet Union was proposing a neutral government in Afghanistan, South Africa could live with a neutral government in Angola. But Malan's offer, which was reported by news agencies and radio stations, was dismissed by the Soviet Union.

On the line to Moscow, Julian Marshall asked Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov why it had been dismissed out of hand.

[Begin recording] [Gerasimov] Well, where is the offer? We don't have any official offer here in Moscow. What we do have—we have news agencies' dispatches about Mr Malan saying something over the radio, and diplomacy is not conducted over the radio.

[Marshall] So, if a formal offer were to be made to you, how would you react?

[Gerasimov] I think that our reaction must be in the negative. I think it is just simply a flying kite, maybe a flying balloon...[changes thought] There is no follow-up, nothing serious. So, our official immediate reaction is negative (?reaction).

[Marshall] But presumably the South Africans feel that they are unable to make a direct approach to you at this moment, which is why they are flying this balloon, as you say.

[Gerasimov] But what is this offer about? Is it about the composition of the Government of Angola? What is the (?essence) of the offer?

[Marshall] As far as I understand it, what they are suggesting to you is that if you can propose the possibility of a nonaligned government in Kabul, this is something that would be acceptable to them in Luanda.

[Gerasimov] Well, if it's kind of drawing a parallel, then I must say that, of course, they are regional conflicts, but they are specific regional conflicts and there is not much in common here. Maybe there's just the letter A; otherwise they are different, these conflicts. That is why the solution which is being applied to Afghanistan cannot just artificially be transferred and be applied to Angola.

[Marshall] On the face of it, it would seem to make sense. South Africa wants the Soviet Union out of Angola, you want the South African troops out of Angola. It would seem to make sense that you sat down and talked about it.

[Gerasimov] No, we don't see the problem of South Africa as something which has anything to do with Angola and its government. The problem is the apartheid regime in South Africa, and the problem is their adverse relationships with neighbors (?of the north). [end recording]

East Europe

Officials Preview Gorbachev SFRY Visit

Djukic: 'Signal Event'

LD112028 Moscow TASS in English 2011 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade March 11 TASS—People in Yugoslavia attach enormous importance to the forthcoming official friendly visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ilija Djukic, assistant to the federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, told a briefing for foreign correspondents here. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have always attached great importance to the state of bilateral relations, sought to enrich them with a qualitatively new content.

The visit of the Soviet leader takes place in the period of a broad and multifarious development of ties between our countries and parties. This is the time of dramatic changes on the international scene, interesting and important processes occurring in life in the USSR and Yugoslavia. All this lends a special ring to the Soviet-Yugoslav summit meeting, allows one to say that it will become an important, substantive and signal event. Ties between the USSR and Yugoslavia have durable traditions, the political dialogue and bilateral relations between our countries are developing extensively and progressively. These are partners which take a vigorous part in international affairs, proceeding from their international status.

There will be a wide exchange of views at the talks in Belgrade on international problems, first and foremost, the efforts to promote peace and enhance security on earth, to develop the process of disarmament and detente. The sides will inform each other about the transformations taking place in their countries. Center stage will be given to the issues of developing further Soviet-Yugoslav relations in a variety of areas, which are based on the solid foundation of the time-tested principles formulated in the documents of 1955 and 1956 and in the subsequent joint documents, Djukic emphasized.

'Broad Opportunities' Ahead

LD131545 Moscow TASS in English 1454 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade March 13 TASS—The official friendly visit to Yugoslavia by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which will start on March 14, offers broad opportunities for an all-round, substantive and friendly exchange of opinions on all aspects of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, pressing international problems, as well as for mutual information on processes taking place in the domestic life of the two countries, points out the TANJUG agency in its commentary.

During the visit Mikhail Gorbachev will hold talks with the top leadership of Yugoslavia, will visit several cities and some enterprises of the country.

The very packed programme for the stay of the Soviet leader in Yugoslavia speaks of the working character of the visit and a mutual desire for the Soviet-Yugoslav dialogue to be all-embracing and conducive to enriching all-round and friendly cooperation between the two countries.

The Yugoslav official quarters attach great importance to Gorbachev's visit. It is pointed out that it will be made in a period of stable and developed relations, broad and diverse contacts between the USSR and Yugoslavia. The Soviet Union is one of the biggest Yugoslavia's partners by the scale and content of bilateral cooperation in economy, science, technology, culture and education.

A place of prominence at the coming talks will be given to cooperation between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, to processes taking place in the international communist and workers' movement, as well as to the development of interaction of the two countries in economy.

Mikhail Gorbachev and top Yugoslav leaders will exchange opinions on pressing international problems. The positions of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union on the campaign for peace, disarmament and democratization of international relations, as well as on some other

important questions have much in common. Differences on some problems which are a result of a different international position, are no obstacle for successful bilateral cooperation.

Soviet-Yugoslav summit meetings, the TANJUG agency notes in conclusion, have a long-standing tradition. According to a general estimate, they contribute to better understanding and further development of diverse relations between the USSR and Yugoslavia.

'Lively Interest' in Visit

LD140937 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade March 14 TASS—(From TASS special correspondents).

An exchange of experience in socialist construction, the generalisation of everything new and valuable which is produced through the creative activity of the two peoples, and the tasks of the joint work for peace and international security are the aims of the forthcoming dialogue between Mikhail Gorbachev and the leadership of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. These have aroused a lively interest among the broadest sections of the country's population.

Work collectives here wait, of course, for contacts with the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee: It is known well here that he attaches special importance to a detailed and frank talk with the working class, be it in Prague or Murmansk, Tallinn or Berlin, Sofia or Moscow.

The atmosphere of cordiality is not only in the look of ancient Belgrade. It is also in sentiments of people who, laying aside their work, arrived today at the central thoroughfares, the Danube and Sava embankments with flags, welcoming streamers in Russian and bunches of spring flowers long before the Soviet leader's arrival.

The forthcoming official friendly visit of Mikhail Gorbachev at the invitation of the collective presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia is the leading topic in newspapers, radio and television broadcasts.

A comprehensive exhibition of Soviet books, paintings, drawings, TASS and NOVOSTI press agency photos, other displays, and the days of Soviet film are timed for the memorable event in the life of the two countries.

Mikhail Gorbachev's book "Perestroyka: New Thinking for Our Country and the World", which has just appeared on sale in bookshops in Serbian and Croatian, is greatly popular here.

Gorbachev Leaves Moscow for Belgrade Visit

Politburo, Candidate Members Present

LD141001 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The departure from Moscow of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev: Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, today left Moscow for Belgrade at the invitation of the collective presidency of the SFRY and the LCY Central Committee presidium for an official friendly visit.

At Nvukovo Airport, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was seen off by members of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee Vorotnikov, Gromyko, Zaykov, Ligachev, Nikonov, Ryzhkov, Slyunkov, Solomentsev, Chebrikov, and Shevardnadze; CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate members Demichev, Dolgikh, Rzzumovskiy, and Yazov; CPSU Central Committee secretaries Baklanov, Biryukova, Dobrynin, and Lukyanov; Kapitonov, CPSU Central Auditing Commission chairman; and other comrades.

Among those seeing him off was Lazic, ad interim charge d'affaires of Yugoslavia to the USSR.

Arrives in Belgrade

LD141215 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade March 14 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived here today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the collective presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

Met by Mojsov, Krunic

LD141315 Moscow TASS in English 1306 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade March 14 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived here today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the collective presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (SKJ).

The Soviet leader and his wife were welcomed at the airport by Lazar Mojsov, president of the collective presidency of Yugoslavia, and his wife, Bosko Krunic, chairman of the Presidium of the SKJ Central Committee, and his wife, and other Yugoslav leaders.

A band played the national anthems of the two countries. Gorbachev and Mojsov reviewed the guard of honor.

A gun salute was fired in honor of the Soviet leader.

Further on Shevardnadze, SFRY's Veres Meeting

PM141241 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 88 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Reception of Ambassador"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign minister, received M. Veres, SFRY ambassador to the USSR, at the latter's request 5 March.

In the course of the conversation, which took place in a warm, comradely atmosphere, they examined certain questions of Soviet-Yugoslav relations in light of the upcoming official friendly visit to Yugoslavia by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary.

During the discussion of international questions it was pointed out that the meeting between the Balkan states' foreign ministers held in Belgrade 24-26 February was an important event for European and world politics and will help to develop good-neighborliness and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans.

Loginov, SFRY's Djukic, Lazic Confer in Moscow

PM111351 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] An exchange of views on topical questions of Soviet-Yugoslav relations took place during a conversation in the USSR Foreign Ministry 9 March between V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy foreign minister, and I. Djukic, SFRY deputy federal secretary for foreign affairs. D. Lazic, SFRY charge d'affaires in the USSR, also took part.

Moscow-Belgrade Telebridge Debuts 11 March

LD121122 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1902 GMT on 11 March carries the first-ever Moscow-Belgrade Telebridge, hosted in Moscow by Lev Voznesenskiy and in Belgrade by Goran Milic. The program lasts 90 minutes. The Moscow panel comprises Yuriy Andreyevich Belyayev, CPSU Central Auditing Commission member and SOVETSKAYA KULTURA chief editor; and Oleg Timofeyevich Bogomolov, director of the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System. The SFRY side comprises Dr Oskar Kovac, Federal Executive Council member; Aleksander Grlickov, introduced as an expert in the workers movement and one-time close associate of Tito; and Dr (Prvoslav Ralic), professor of ethics and culture at Belgrade University. The two audiences are made up of representatives of industrial enterprises, workers, students, war veterans, and others.

Milic begins by asking Bogomolov about the progress of restructuring in the USSR. Bogomolov notes that there are difficulties but says that such difficulties are inevitable, given the revolutionary nature of the changes that are taking place.

Oskar Kovac asks Bogomolov when the necessary price reforms will be implemented in the USSR. Bogomolov replies that price reform, together with the concomitant taxation and market reforms, is to be carried out in the current 5-year period, and he goes on to summarize in general terms the categories of goods and services involved, and the general principles relating to price agreements and free prices. Nationwide discussion, Voznesenskiy adds, is to be opened on the various proposals and problems relating to price reform and how to avoid unwarranted price rises. In response to a question from the Moscow audience on how the SFRY intends to cope with economic difficulties, Kovac summarizes the principles of the pricing policy, which seeks to reduce the state role in price formation and control. He says that the early experience of self-management was positive, but further developments have led to a high level of inflation. A campaign to fight inflation has been launched; Kovac outlines the main aspects of this.

Milic introduces a brief intermission and presents a series of Yugoslav screen advertisements for SFRY-made jeans, cars, and footwear.

A member of the Moscow audience comments that it has been said that the best way to fight bureaucratism is self-management: How far, he asks, is this the case in Yugoslav experience? Aleksander Grlickov explains how the SFRY system of political pluralism works—through the LCY, SAWPY, the Federation of Socialist Youth, and other organizations. Profound analysis has been carried out of the SFRY ideo-political concepts, and no radical changes are envisaged in the theory, he says, only in the practice.

A Rakovica worker asks whether there are strikes in the USSR, and whether the state sanctions the holding of strikes. "Well, perhaps someone would like to tackle that question, or at least begin to answer it?" Voznesenskiy asks the Moscow studio audience. To muffled laughter, he prompts: "Perhaps someone among those present would like to share their experience of this; perhaps someone has taken part in a strike?" There is no response, apart from an indistinct exchange among the studio audience. "Well, all right then," Voznesenskiy addresses the Belgrade audience, "There is not a soul in our audience who has any personal experience to share about taking part in a strike. We regret we did not envisage such a turn in our discussion. So if you have no objections, I shall ask those comrades who are called upon to generalize those processes taking place in society, to answer that question." Bogomolov responds that "the situation in our country is somewhat different from that in the SFRY, and for many decades no strikes were observed. That does not mean that in individual cases

there are no conflicts, when workers consider it necessary to make a series of demands and when a strike, if you like, occurs. But for the moment, this is the exception. How will things be in the future? Shall we make use of your experience here? Or on the contrary, shall that serve as as a big warning for us? Life will demonstrate. We are only just introducing the law on enterprises, which gives huge rights to the labor collective."

Bogomolov asks about the principle of rotation of leading posts in the SFRY, "today, when we are thinking hard about guarantees that many abuses of power which occurred in our history in the past should not recur." Grlickov explains the historical background to rotation and collective government in the SFRY, and adds that changes have already been made to extend the mandate periods.

Goran Milic asks how Soviet citizens regard the Afghanistan issue; Krasin says that Gorbachev's statement on Afghanistan cleared up the entire issue for Soviet citizens, and he summarizes the Soviet stand as expounded in Gorbachev's statement.

Ralic calls for greater cooperation in the cultural sphere between the USSR and SFRY, and goes on to ask about censorship in the USSR. Belyayev replies that restructuring and democratization are proceeding on a wide scale in Soviet culture, as testified by the formation of the Union of Theater workers and the elections of leaders of the Union of Writers. "In this respect, I can reply that censorship, on the level we understood it before restructuring, does not now exist as such. It deals with its own immediate affairs, guarding state and military secrets; it no longer has any bearing upon artistic creative work. The right to select plays for the theater, books for publication and—as a newspaper editor, I can say—articles for publication, rests wholly with the editorial collegium and the artistic council, and with no one else."

Gorbachev Greets Kadar En Route to Belgrade

LD141334 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, has sent a telegram from onboard his aircraft to MSZMP General Secretary Janos Kadar.

The telegram says: While flying across the territory of the Hungarian People's Republic I am sending you, the MSZMP Central Committee, the Hungarian Communists, and all the working people, cordial greetings and wishes for success in socialist construction.

Conference Held on Relations With Hungary

LD111529 Budapest MTI in English 1438 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 11 (MTI)—Each other's local experiences serve as the laboratories of socialist building, said Rafael Fedorov, deputy head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, at the conference held Friday in Moscow on Hungarian-Soviet fraternal county relations. The discussion, initiated by the CPSU Central Committee, was attended by several Hungarian county party and state leaders, the leaders of Hungarian representations in Moscow, and by representatives of Soviet Central Organs and many leaders of the concerned areas.

Sandor Rajnai, Hungarian ambassador to the Soviet Union, said that problems of cooperation and the faults of the standard mechanism are clear to all under the new circumstances. The main task is to jointly eliminate these, to jointly explore the modern forms of fruitful cooparation.

Tibor Krajnyak, head of subdepartment of the HSWP Central Committee, noted that alongside the fraternal counties, there is a demand for fraternal cities, and fraternal relations should be established between certain districts of Budapest and Moscow. He said that the spreading of family tourism and exchange between families would promote the deepening of direct relations between the individuals.

Genrikh Bandrovskiy, CPSU Transcarpathian territory committee first secretary, said that only a few of the Hungarian experiences have been utilized to date. The relation was free of problems as long as border relations implied only the relation between political and social organizations. The coming into prominence of economy has, on the one hand, revealed the problems, on the other hand, it has opened new vistas for cooperation.

Further on Nikonov's Trip to Bulgaria

Visits Varna Oblast

LD120303 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The working visit to Bulgaria by Viktor Petrovich Nikonov, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, continues. Today the Soviet guest acquainted himself with enterprises of the agro-industrial complex in Varna Oblast. The industrial animal-breeding combine (Radopa) in the town of Tolbukhin, is a high class enterprise, closely connected with the region's agrarian sector. [passage omitted]

Viktor Petrovich Nikonov toured the combine's workshops, held conversations with its workers, showed interest in their working and living conditions, and visited an exhibition of prepared products.

After acquainting himself with the work of the food industry's front-ranking enterprises, the CPSU Central Committee secretary highly appraised the efforts of the collectives to implement the food program and their contribution to satisfying the needs of the population for food products.

In conversations with managers and specialists, he discussed the need to activate an exchange of experience in this area, and cooperation in the production of equipment that meets contemporary standards.

Tours 'Biotech' Plant

LD121411 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1226 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Varna, 12 Mar (TASS)—Today is the final day of the working visit of V.P. Nikonov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, to Bulgaria. Accompanied by V. Tsanov, BCP Central Committee secretary, he visited the Varna "Biotech" enterprise which produces biological equipment. The "Biotech" management and specialists told V.P. Nikonov about the basic directions of the activity of the enterprise, demonstrated new developments with the use waste-free technologies on processing milk, fruit, and vegetables, and also demonstrated original technological equipment for slaughter blood processing. The important contribution of the enterprise to the implementation of one of the priority directions in the development of the bulgarian economy was noted in the course of discussion.

The CPSU Central Committee secretary visited a new festival complex named for L. Zhivkovoy in Varna and a small enterprise for grapes and fruit processing in Yevksinograd [name as received].

Departs Bulgaria

LD121549 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This afternoon V.P. Nikonov and those accompanying him left for Moscow. At Varna airport he was seen off by V. Tsanov and other officials. The send-off party included L.I. Grekov, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria.

Solomentsev Welcomes Nikonov

LD121732 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1711 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (TASS)—Viktor Nikonov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, returned to Moscow today after his trip around the People's Republic of Bulgaria, where he had been on a working visit at the invitation of the BCP Central Committee.

He was met at the airport by Mikhail Solomentsev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee chairman, as well as other officials.

Demichev Receives Bulgarian Envoy Pankov

LD120026 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In the Kremlin today, Comrade Demichev received Pankov, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the USSR, at his request. In the course of their conversation, they exchanged views on Soviet-Bulgarian relations, the development of ties between the highest bodies of state power of the two countries, as well as topical international issues. The conversation took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Bulgaria's Todorov Stops Over En Route to Japan

LD132305 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2031 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the "NOVOSTI" newscast]

[Text] A delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, headed by Comrade Todorov, Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and National Assembly chairman, made a short stopover in Moscow en route to Japan on 13 March.

Honecker Visits USSR Pavilion at Leipzig Fair

LD132222 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Erich Honecker and other GDR leaders visited the Soviet pavilion at the Leipzig International Fair. They were warmly welcomed by the members of the Soviet governmental delegation headed by Belousov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman.

We ascribe great importance to the fact, said the GDR leader, that the direct scientific-technical and production contacts between the GDR and USSR enterprises and institutions on the basis of more than 120 concluded agreements are acquiring increasingly more concrete shapes. The GDR enterprises and combines are at present conducting through direct contacts around 48 percent of the exports to the Soviet Union that were envisaged by the national economic plan. Cooperation with the USSR and other CEMA member countries on a qualitatively higher level further promotes the growth of power of our socialist community as a whole and of each individual country, noted Erich Honecker.

Scholars on 'Fine Chapters' in Polish Relations

LD121039 Moscow International Service in Polish 1500 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Another session of the joint commission of scholars from the Soviet Union and Poland on the history of relations between the two countries has recently ended in Warsaw. The joint chairman of the commission from the Soviet side was Academician Georgiy Smirnov, director

of the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism. We asked him to share with us the result of the meeting and outline the commission's achievements during its lifetime. At the same time we would like to remind you that it was established last May.

[Begin Smirnov recording in Russian with superimposed Polish translation] How do we now see the problems in light of the results of the commission's Warsaw session and what do we see as our long-term tasks? I think the commission has taken significant steps forward with regard to at least three issues. First, it discussed specific problems of Soviet-Polish relations within the aspects planned at the first session last May. Second, we emphasized the fact that many important questions of Soviet-Polish relations cannot be understood in depth if one considers merely our relations, that is equally those between our peoples and our states. They can be understood and elucidated in-depth only in pan-European and even worldwide context. Third, the commission has outlined ways for further increasing the efficiency of this work to inform the Soviet and Polish public of the results of the research as quickly as possible.

So, item one. What specific issues did the commission examine? First and foremost these include issues connected with the brotherhood-in-arms of the Polish and the Soviet peoples during World War II, Georgiy Smirnov continues. There has been progress in researching issues connected with the Polish population in the western areas of Ukraine and Belorussia in 1939-44. We discussed an important report on the work of the Comintern in the years before and during World War II with reference, of course, to the fate of the Communist Party of Poland. What is the result of the discussion of these issues? I shall begin by saying that history has left us quite a few complex and dramatic chapters, which to this day have adverse repercussions on our peoples' awareness. They require close attention and the thorough examination on a strictly factual basis. Consider, for example, an issue such as the brotherhood-in-arms. We sometimes think that quite a few books have been written, that quite a lot of fundamental research has been done, and that the problem has apparently been studied. At the same time its thorough study shows that there still exist quite a few chapters there which we do not know sufficiently, especially the issue of the formation of the Polish People's Army on Soviet Union territory and the Soviet leadership's assistance in the form of deliveries of weapons, equipment, and so on for the Polish units. Or such a dramatic issue as the fate of the Soviet POW's in Nazi camps on the territory of Poland. Many of them escaped, and made it to partisan units, and we know the Polish people provided much assistance for them. These are fine chapters of the history of our friendship and we should have a better knowledge of them.

Now let us take the fate of the Polish people on the Soviet Union territory in the period after 1939. Normally the accepted view is that the resettlement of the Polish population from the western areas of Ukraine and Belorussia in its entire extent was through compulsory deportations. In truth matters are more complex than that. Such deportations, in violation of socialist legality, did indeed take place. They were applied to representatives of the Polish ruling classes and the military. They were explained as being necessary for clearing the border areas of hostile elements. There were also quite a few instances where innocent people suffered and in that sense they shared the fate of Soviet citizens. At the same time we have to remember that the resettlement of Poles further inside the Soviet Union was often dictated also by other considerations. It is worth recalling the Polish refugees, who were fleeing the Nazi Army. Many Poles were sent to work in various industrial areas, many were called up by the Soviet Army and then by formations of the Polish Army. To summarize, this problem requires further study and we shall continue to occupy ourselves with it along with our Polish colleagues. Now I would just like to add that steps are at present being taken in the Land of the Soviets to preserve the memory of the Poles—revolutionaries and men of learning and culture—who lived in the Land of the Soviets and made a great contribution to the development of the Soviet Union.

I would also like to emphasize that the history of our relations is not made up only of sad and tragic events but also of many glorious and fine chapters of brotherhood-in-arms and work, Academician Smirnov continues. If we compare them, then as far as their significance is concerned, these fine chapters outweigh the negative events. Especially as now we have common objectives and tasks both in the cause of socialist renewal and in the struggle for the preservation of peace. We are summoned to this by the declaration on Soviet-Polish cooperation in ideology, science, and culture signed last April by Mikhail Gorbachev and Wojciech Jaruzelski.

I would like to draw one more conclusion from what we have said, Georgiy Smirnov says, of course, in-depth knowledge to a large extents enables us to eliminate the so-called blank spots and furthers the tightening of our relations of friendship. But knowledge is not everything. It, too, has to be used skillfully. Let us take, for example, the events of the 1920 war or the events of 1939. In this respect we have to not only know what happened at the time but we also have to be able to make the right assessment, take the right position, and visualize the objective conditioning factors and the subjective layers contributed by the figures of that period. If we hold on like grim death onto notions which are now already outdated, we are going to do great damage to the attitudes and the mutual relations of the present-day generations. So, after learning the hsitorical facts we have to know how to treat them correctly and that is what forms the basis for the solution of the task which the leaders of our parties have set us. [end recording]

Tolstykh Ends Prague Talks, Signs Document

LD122316 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1702 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Prague, 12 Mar (TASS)—Talks between Boris Tolstykh, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and USSR State Committee for Science and Technology chairman, and Jaromir Obzina, CSSR federal vice premier and chairman of the State Commission for Scientific, Technical and Investment Development, ended here today with the signing of a review document. During the talks, measures to accelerate the implementation of accords reached between the highest party and government representatives of the USSR and the CSSR, and primarily concerning scientific and technical development, were discussed and formulated.

The sides were critical in assessing the present state of the prospects for bilateral scientific and technical cooperation in the area of fulfilling pledges arising from the comprehensive program for the scientific and technical progress of CEMA member countries up to the year 2000. Joint measures were adopted aimed at improving the efficiency of cooperation, and attention was given to preparing and implementing major scientific, production, and technological projects, both within the CEMA framework and on a bilateral basis.

A program for direct cooperation between the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology and the CSSR State Commission for Scientific, Technical and Investment Development was discussed and adopted.

West Europe

NATO 'Secretly' Building Command Post in FRG

LD131646 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Bonn March 13 TASS—NATO has been secretly building for over a year a new commanding post of the North Atlantic bloc on the left bank of the lower Rhine. The post is to coordinate "under crisis conditions" military operations over a considerable part of the West German territory.

The DPA agency reports today that replying to an inquiry, Heribert Emunds, mayor of Linnich, a city situated in that area, said that the Bundeswehr had purchased there some 20 years ago a substantial tract of land to build an underground facility, about whose designation nothing had been known at the time. The mayor surmises that the construction of the new NATO commanding post will be completed in 1990-1991.

Gorbachev, FRG's Kohl To Exchange Visits

LD131104 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—It has been officially announced here that in keeping with the mutual agreement between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the federal chancellor will go on an official visit to the USSR in the autumn of 1988, and the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee will go on an official visit to the FRG in the first half of 1989. The time of the visits to be paid will be specified at a later date.

FRG's Genscher Says Restructure Benefits West

LD112245 Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Bonn March 11 TASS—West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher today described the policy pursued by the Soviet leadership headed by Mikhail Gorbachev as meeting the interests of both Soviet people and of developing East-West relations.

That was why, he told Deutschlandfunk Radio service, it was in the interest of the West itself to facilitate the success of that policy, by improving cooperation with the USSR.

The words by the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee could be trusted because, Genscher said, that was a man matching his words with his deeds.

He added that that had been borne out, among other things, by Soviet readiness to allow on-site inspections in its territory as part of verification arrangements under disarmament treaties and by Soviet agreement to the complete abolition of medium-range missiles, which had led to the INF Treaty.

Touching on talks on Afghanistan, Genscher expressed confidence that the Soviet leader firmly intended to secure an end to the conflict there.

"I proceed from the premise that Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan in the near future," the West German foreign minister said.

Commenting on the perestroyka policy for social and economic renewal in the USSR, he said he was convinced that it would result in fundamental changes in the Soviet Union, which would be, as Gorbachev had pointed out, of revolutionary nature.

"For us it is important that this policy is improving prerequisites for East-West cooperation and is for this reason advantageous to the West as well," Genscher said.

FRG Business Cooperation Association Set Up

LD111543 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—A Soviet Association of Business Cooperation with the FRG was set up here today. It will give Soviet organisations practical assistance in the search for business partners, in mastering new forms and avenues of economic, scientific and technological cooperation, in conducting talks, in drafting and concluding contracts and agreements and protect the interests of its members on the West German market.

Today's constituent meeting was attended by representatives of 75 industrial, agricultural, trade and cooperative organisations. They adopted the charter of this new Soviet public organisation, elected its governing bodies and approved the size of dues to be paid by the association's members.

Nikolay Chikiryov, director general of the Sergo Ordzhonikidze machine-tool building plant in Moscow, was elected chairman of the association's board.

"The establishment of the Association of Business Cooperation with the FRG reflects the Soviet Union's striving to expand and deepen trade and economic ties with that country", the meeting was told by Vladislav Malkevich, president of the presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "For the past 15 years the FRG has been the Soviet Union's biggest trade partner among Western countries. Last year the trade turnover between the Soviet Union and the FRG amounted to about five billion roubles. The Soviet Union's deficit in this trade was 300 million roubles".

"West Germany is a leader among Western countries by number of agreements on co-production (25) signed with Soviet enterprises and by number of joint ventures (7) set up in the USSR", Vladislav Malkevich said further.

The Association of Business Cooperation with the FRG is a juridical person and operates on the basis of cost-accounting. It has its own budget and can be a plaintiff or a respondent in a court of law or a court of arbitration.

Vladislav Malkevich noted that the association should become a generator of ideas and a coordinator of the development of economic ties between the USSR and the FRG, promote the growth of trade turnover between the two countries and the improvement of its content.

Soviet-FRG Firm Concludes First Contract

LD112356 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS-TASS correspondent Andrey Orlov writes:

The first trade deal has been concluded by the Soviet-West German firm Petrokam. A contract worth nine million roubles, which was signed today by the Petrokam, the Soviet foreign trade association Techmashimport, and the Japanese Toyo Engineering Corporation and the Mitsui, envisages the delivery of complete plant for the production of ethylene glycol to the joint enterprise.

The chemical which is widely used in the manufacture of artificial fibre, varnishes, paints and anti-freeze fluid is the basis of the Petrokam's production programme. More than a half of the entire amount of ethylene glycol to be produced by the enterprise (60,000 tons a year) will be sold on the external market.

The distinguishing feature of the deal is that the joint Soviet-American enterprise Pris has been chosen as a subcontractor. It will supply the Petrokam with systems for the automated control of production.

"Today's event confirms once again the promising nature of the development of the new form of business cooperation with partners abroad—a joint enterprise", Aleksander Petrov, deputy director general of Techmashimport, told the TASS correspondent. Joint enterprises, the activities of which develop intensively and dynamically, open up additional opportunities for foreign suppliers of various equipment and other products.

The Petrokam joint enterprise located in the city of Nizhnekamsk (Russian Federation) was established half a year ago by the Nizhnekamskneftekhim production amalgamation and the West-German firm Mineralol Rosthoff Handel.

CPSU Delegation Meets FRG Social Democrats

LD131041 Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—A CPSU delegation, led by Vladimir Ivashko, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Dnepropetrovsk Regional Communist Party Committee, left Moscow for the Federal Republic of Germany today at the invitation of the leadership of the Social-Democratic Party of Germany, to exchange opinions on questions of economy and ecology.

MOSCOW NEWS To Be Published in FRG

LD120015 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Bonn, 11 Mar (TASS)—TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Gulkin reports: The Soviet weekly MOSCOW NEWS will soon be appearing in newspaper stands of the FRG in German. The first edition is to come out on 18 April. The KOELNER STADT ANZEIGER reports that

the Soviet Novosti Press Agency (NPA) will be responsible for the editorial format of the paper while technical issues—manufacture, distribution, and sales—will be the responsibility of West German firms.

The newspaper initially will be issued once a month—cautious West German enterpreneurs want first to set a sort of test period for the Soviet magazine to be certain that it will be in demand on a fairly well saturated local periodicals market. In the event of a commercial success, MOSCOW NEWS will come out every week as it should, and the firms will conclude an agreement with the Soviets on the formation of a joint enterprise. This will be the first such Soviet-West German enterprise in the FRG in the mass media sphere. [passage omitted]

Now for the first time in the history of MOSCOW NEWS, it is to be published abroad.

Talks Held With Italy on Chemical Weapons Ban

LD102240 Moscow TASS in English 1841 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Soviet-Italian consultations on questions pertaining to a ban on chemical weapons and preparations for the third special session on disarmament of the U.N. General Assembly have been held at the USSR Foreign Ministry today. The consultations proceeded in a constructive atmosphere. They brought to light a considerable degree of closeness of the stands of the USSR and Italy on issues under discussion.

The delegation of the Italian Foreign Ministry led by A. Negrotto, deputy director general of department, was received by Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister.

U.S., NATO Pressure Italy To Accept F-16's

LD121652 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Rome March 12 TASS—The United States and NATO leaders are putting pressure on Italy to get it to agree to stationing in the country 72 fighter bombers F-16 which are to be withdrawn from Spain in three years under the Spanish American agreement.

U.S. General John Galvin, NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, who had made a trip to several West European countries, told a press conference held at the U.S. Embassy in Rome that the jets were necessary to NATO to protect the southern flank of the alliance. In the opinion of the NATO general, nuclear-capable F-16 planes should remain in Western Europe.

The newspaper LA REPUBBLICA points out today that Galvin did not conceal his hopes that Italy would offer 'hospitality' to U.S. fighter bombers.

Galvin will hold talks with Italian Defence Minister Valerio Zanon in the Italian capital. Apart from the issue of a possible transfer of F-16 jets to Italy, the sides will discuss questions pertaining to acquisition by Rome of U.S. missiles Patriot.

Tolkunov-Led Delegation Arrives in Italy

LD132207 Moscow TASS in English 2152 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Rome March 13 TASS—Today a Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the parliamentary group of the USSR, arrived in Rome at the invitation of the parliamentary group of Italy on an official visit.

He noted in a press statement that despite differences in social, economic and political systems, the two countries have many common interests. The main thing is a desire of the Soviet and Italian peoples for peace and good-neighbourly relations. "The improvement in Soviet-American relations, the Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and prospects for a substantial reduction in strategic nuclear weapons generate a fresh wind starting to oust dark clouds of confrontation," said the leader of the Soviet delegation.

Efforts taken now by the Soviet Union in favour of restructuring international relations on the basis of the new political thinking are directly linked with changes in our country, noted Lev Tolkunov. The Soviet people are busy with sweeping social and economic changes. The process of broad democratization of all aspects of social life is under way.

The leader of the Soviet delegation expressed the hope that the coming meeting and talks with statesmen and parliamentarians of Italy would make a contribution to strengthening relations between the two countries and would promote the growth of mutual understanding and sympathies between the Soviet and Italian peoples.

Dobrynin Receives Danish Party Officials

LD111852 Moscow TASS in English 1755 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today met Svend Auken, chairman of the Social-Democratic Party of Denmark, and Steen Christensen, general secretary of the party, who are in the Soviet Union on the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the talk, that passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, they discussed the urgent international issues of the efforts to achieve disarmament and detente. Particular attention was paid to the matters of scaling down military activity and developing mutually profitable cooperation in the northern region.

The sides underscored the mutual aspiration of the CPSU and the Social Democratic Party of Denmark to promote a dialogue and interaction to translate into action the Murmansk programme laid down by Mikhail Gorbachev and also the initiatives of the north European countries for strengthening peace and stability in the region.

Lukyanov Meets With Officials

LD121725 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1525 GMT 12 March 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Lukyanov met with Auken, chairman of the Danish Social-Democratic Party, and Christiansen, general secretary of the party, who are on a visit in the USSR at the invitation of the CPSU. During the conversation, the Danish guests were thoroughly informed about the development of the restructuring and democratization processes taking place in the USSR, as well as the strengthening of internationalist friendship among the Soviet peoples. The representatives of the Social Democratic Party of Denmark said that the Danish public is sincerely interested in the wide-ranging changes which are currently underway in all areas in Soviet society.

Bilateral Nuclear Power Talks Held in Finland

LD101526 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1125 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Helsinki, 10 Mar (TASS)—Questions of the establishment and development of cooperation between the USSR State Committee for Safety in the Nuclear Power Industry and Finland's Center for Radioactive and Nuclear Safety have become the main subject of talks between representatives of the two countries now taking place in the Finnish capital.

The aim of this first meeting between Finnish and Soviet specialists is the establishment of direct contacts between the two organizations, the formulation of a program of action to strengthen effective monitoring of the work of nuclear power stations, and the establishment of rules and requirements in that area with a bearing on AES apparatus and systems in order to increase their safety.

Two sets of nuclear power stations, Lovisa-1 and Lovisa-2, are currently working successfully in Finland. Built with the assistance of the Soviet Union, their effectiveness of protection and work are considered to be among the highest in the world.

Atomic Power Pact Signed

LD131715 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] A 3-year program of cooperation between the USSR and Finland in the atomic power engineering sphere has been signed in Helsinki. It envisages expanding the exchange of information and experience in monitoring atomic power station safety and holding meetings of Soviet and Finnish specialists twice a year. In the course of these meetings, seminars will be organized on issues relating to the work of AES. There has also been discussion of the possibility of Finland participating in projects guaranteeing safety at atomic power stations which are being carried out by the Soviet Union in conjunction with the socialist countries.

Zubkov Interviews Norwegian Foreign Minister

LD120952 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1540 GMT 11 Mar 88

[From "The World Today" program presented by Georgiy Zubkov]

[Text] In northern Europe, attention is increasingly being drawn to the problem of strengthening security in this region, to the development of relations—both political and economic—between our country and the countries of northern Europe. The program for strengthening security and cooperation here in the north of Europe, proposed by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in his speech in Murmansk, has become a stimulus for active discussion of these problems.

The practical resolution of these matters found its reflection during the trip to Sweden and Norway by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of our country.

I now present an interview with Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg:

[Begin recording] [Zubkov] How do you evaluate the prospects for political dialogue and the development of relations between our countries at the present time?

[Stoltenberg, speaking in Norwegian with superimposed Russian translation] In my view the fact that the political dialogue between our countries is being conducted at a high level, as was the case during the visit by Premier Ryzhkov to Norway, may be regarded as promising much for the opportunities to develop it. If we take a look at the map, we see immediately that the necessity and purposefulness of dialogue and close contacts are determined by the new opportunities for good-neighborliness opening up in front of us.

[Zubkov] Did such a large scale cooperation project, proposed by the Soviet Union, as the program for the processing of the mineral resources of the Kola Peninsula, meet with a positive response in Norway?

[Stoltenberg] I can reply briefly and definitively to this question. We on the Norwegian side, both individual companies and the government, wish for and are striving to develop all practical opportunities for cooperation that exist in the areas of economics and technology. We have been involved in this for many years now, but we have not achieved a great deal. In part, this is evidently due to the fact that in a number of senses the USSR and Norway possess similar export goods—primarily raw materials and semifinished products. I hope that the specific proposals expressed during the visit by the Soviet premier will enable our wishes to find concrete expression and to be implemented.

[Zubkov] You have just returned from Brussels, where the NATO session was held. What are your impressions?

[Stoltenberg] In brief, it may be put like this: Sixteen NATO countries were united regarding the treaty concluded between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. They supported a dialogue aimed at reducing strategic armaments, the prohibition of chemical weapons, and, to no lesser extent, at a balance of conventional weapons.

From my point of view, it is extremely important that we commence talks as quickly as possible on a balance of conventional weapons. This is of particular significance for further work within the framework of the whole disarmament process.

[Zubkov] The Soviet leadership has put forward an entire range of proposals aimed at strengthening security, a radical lowering of the level of military confrontation in the north of Europe and in the Arctic, and, in particular, about a meeting between the military experts of the Warsaw Pact and NATO for a discussion of confidence measures at sea. Does Norway, for its part, intend to mount political activity in order to resolve these problems?

[Stoltenberg] I shall remark upon two important matters in the Murmansk speech by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. First, there are practical steps of a bilateral nature, some of which we succeeded in converting into forms of agreements during the visit by Premier Ryzhkov. These relate to rescue at sea, environmental protection, scientific research, and other matters. Second, you have the Gorbachev proposals concerning security policy problems. Very important for us here was a matter which turned this speech into a closely-felt and concrete reality: It was said that such issues should be considered on a bloc basis. It is perfectly clear that on problems of policy and security, the Norwegian Government is ready to consider such proposals within the framework of our alliance with the aim of conducting dialogue both with the USSR and with the Warsaw Pact Organization as a whole.

[Zubkov] What, in your view, might it be possible to do in order to resolve the question of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe? After all, now, after the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination on the European Continent of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, more favorable prerequisites are being created for this.

[Stoltenberg] In practical terms, the foreign ministers of the northern countries in March last year agreed that a group of experts would study the prerequisites for creating such a zone. From the Norwegian side, we consider that such a zone should be considered in the spectrum of the broad European interrelationship. The changes now taking place, and the dialogue between the East and the West aimed at disarmament and detente, do indeed represent a development of events in the necessary direction.

[Zubkov] I have asked all my questions. Perhaps the minister would care to make a small address to our viewers personally, from himself?

[Stoltenberg] I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address the Soviet people. I am from Norway, a country whose population consists of 4 million people, and it is not very usual for me to address an audience of more than 100 million. But this in itself speaks of the great desire to continue to develop good-neighbourly relations between our two countries. [end recording]

Latin America & Caribbean

Nicaragua's Ramirez Views Cease-Fire Talks

PM101445 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Report on interview with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez in Managua especially for IZVESTIYA by APN correspondent Yu. Kryuchkov under the heading "Nicaragua: The Next Round"]

[Text] The next round is beginning in the talks between the Nicaraguan Government and representatives of the armed counterrevolution. In this connection, I asked Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez: What are the prospects for the talks?

[Ramirez] We will not relinquish our attempts to achieve a real cease-fire within the framework of the Guatemala accords. In other words, we will continue the talks on the technical aspects of a cease-fire.

As expected, the U.S. Government is creating obstacles in the way of real accords. Despite the fact that Washington's aggressive policy against Nicaragua has suffered several setbacks in recent months, the U.S. President has not abandoned the hope of continuing this policy by securing support from Congress and trying to impose this policy on his successor. This is the main difficulty. The United States is not interested in ending the conflict

in Nicaragua through a cease-fire. We, on the other hand, although we appreciate the difficulties, will continue our efforts to achieve this end. [Ramirez answer ends]

After the talks were broken off between Nicaraguan President D. Ortega and Cardinal M. Obando y Bravo, there followed an intensive exchange of letters leading to a substantial revision of attitudes.

The essence of the changes amounts to the fact that proceeding from the highest national interests, the Nicaraguan Government has made concessions and has expressed its willingness to hold the next round of the talks with the contras on 9-11 March right here in Nicaragua, in the settlement of Sapoa on the Costa Rican border. Humberto Ortega, the Republic's defense minister, will head the government delegation. The government will thereby be represented at a higher level, which will make it possible to drop the intermediary.

[Kryuchkov] Do you think that the next round in the talks could be the last on the way to a cease-fire, or might it at least play a decisive role in this?

[Ramirez] I would not like to forestall events, but I will say that we intend to conduct the talks in a flexible, responsible manner, making every effort to ensure that the Guatemala accords signed by our president are fulfilled.

Sandinists, Contras Resume Cease-Fire Talks

LD120934 Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Managua March 12 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government and the contra leaders have reached agreement on the resumption of direct cease-fire talks. It has been officially announced here that the talks will be held on March 21 through 23 in the village of Sapoa of Nicaragua in the presence of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Joao Clementi Baena Soares, secretary general of the Organization of American States.

U.S. Setting Up 'Internal Front' in Nicaragua

LD121311 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Managua March 12 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Kurguzov reports:

Representatives of trade union, peasant and public organizations, as well as of the association of cultural and art personalities of Nicaragua have supported the economic policy of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the government's course towards the complete routing of contras mercenary gangs.

At a rally here they strongly denounced the attempts of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to create a so-called "internal front" in the country made up of the local reactionary forces and representatives of former ruling classes. In this connection heads of some 500 public organizations opposed the stand assumed by the right-wing reactionary circles which are trying to destabilize the situation in Nicaragua and provoke the population's discontent over a policy pursued by the national leadership.

Lucio Jimenez, secretary general of the Sandinist Trade Union Centre, described the stand of the reactionary forces as an attempt of a political and ideological revival of the Somoza regime and the beginning of an open counterrevolutionary struggle aimed at eliminating the revolutionary gains of the working people of Nicaragua.

Speakers at the meeting pointed out the need for continuing the armed defense of Nicaragua and its economy in conditions of a complicated political situation, the consolidation of labour discipline and the raising of revolutionary consciousness. They emphasized the leading role played in that struggle by the Sandinist National Liberation Front which is the vanguard of the Nicaraguan people, and urged the working people of the country to actively promote the development of production, the strengthening of economy and the consolidation of the country's independence.

'Patriotic Positions' of Panama Military Lauded

PM141103 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 88 Second Edition p 5

[Yu. Sigov report under the "International Notes" rubric: "Storm Clouds Over Panama"]

[Text] "If U.S. troops are given the order to move against Panama, they will win a rapid victory." This bellicose speech is by General M. Cisneros, who is renowned among his colleagues from the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters as a "tough, determined officer."

Cisneros' statement is only one link in the chain of overt threats now being voiced in the United States regarding the small Central American state. Official Washington has long been irritated by the anti-imperialist course implemented by the Panamanian leadership in the international arena. The year 1968 may be considered the starting point for the "imperial dissatisfaction" when progressive military men, headed by General O. Torrijos, came to power in Panama. Thanks to the firm line held by the leadership of the National Guard (this was what the Republic's Armed Forces were called at that time) a series of U.S.-Panamanian agreements were signed in 1977 under which the last U.S soldier is to leave the Panama Canal Zone by the year 2000, when it will be handed back in full to its rightful owner—the Panamanian people.

But the nearer the date for transferring the "key to the ocean gates" to Panama comes, the more the situation around the canal—the water artery linking the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans—heats up. Apart from the colossal

profits gained by monopolies from the use of the canal, the Americans are attracted by its strategic importance. They are interested primarily in preserving their military presence there. Today more than 10,000 Marines are stationed at 13 U.S. Navy and Air Force bases in the Canal Zone. The U.S. Southern Command Headquarters, where all the military actions carried out in recent years by the Pentagon in the struggle against the national liberation movement in Latin America have been elaborated, is located there.

The United States is trying to keep its positions on the isthmus come what may by proposing to return the canal to Panama ahead of schedule—by 1990. But... in exchange for this "generosity," U.S. military bases must remain on the country's territory until at least 2025 and, in prospect, indefinitely. However, the Panamanians themselves do not wish, as O. Torrijos said, to be "foreigners in their own country." The patriotically minded command of the National Defense Forces, headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, is demanding that the United States strictly observe the terms of the 1977 treaty.

Rightist U.S. circles have held a grudge against the "refractory general" for a long time. Noriega's decisive actions last summer foiled the opposition's plans to destabilize the domestic situation in the country and put a U.S. "sidekick" president at the head of the government. Then the United States, supported by local reaction, resorted to its favorite weapon—slander, blackmail, and threats. Accusing the general of drug trafficking, the U.S. Administration demanded his resignation by way of an ultimatum.

The "decisive offensive" against Noriega began on 25 February. This time the country's President E. Delvalle, under very strong pressure from Washington..., demanded his resignation. However, the National Assembly condemned such a position and dismissed the president from his post. The new president of Panama, M. Solis Palma, made a statement regarding the adherence of the Republic's new leadership to the 1977 treaty. He supported General Noriega's demand for the U.S. Southern Command Staff and U.S. military bases to be removed from the territory of the isthmus.

This turn of events rocked U.S. reactionary circles. Plans to "punish" Panama have been under discussion there for a long time—ranging from the imposition of a trade embargo to overt military intervention. Speaking at an election rally in South Carolina, U.S. Vice President G. Bush made it clear that the United States reserves the right to use military force to "protect the country's sacred interests in this part of the world."

Panama's Armed Forces continue to hold patriotic positions, above all on the key question for Panama: the establishment of genuine sovereignty over the canal. This position enjoys broad popular support. Today, when storm clouds have formed over the country, a great deal will depend on the unity of the National Defense Forces and all the country's progressive forces in the face of imperialist diktat.

Dobrynin, Medvedev, Castro Hold 'Warm' Talks

PM141247 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 88 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Visit to Cuba"]

[Text] Havana, 5 Mar—Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Republic's State Council and Council of Ministers, received CPSU Central Committee Secretaries A.F. Dobrynin and V.A. Medvedev, who took part in the conference of secretaries from socialist countries' communist and workers parties responsible for international questions being held in Havana. In the course of the conversations, which took place in the warm friendly atmosphere typical of relations between the two countries' parties and peoples, a broad range of questions of the contemporary international situation and Soviet-Cuban relations was discussed in detail.

Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and Secretariat, other officials, and A.S. Kapto, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador to Cuba, took part in the conversations.

Then the Cuban leader familiarized the Soviet visitors with Cuba's achievements in socialist building, using the example of the city of Havana. Accompanied by F. Castro, A.F. Dobrynin and V.A. Medvedev visited a biotechnology and genetic engineering center equipped with modern equipment and a number of the capital's other research institutions. They also familiarized themselves in detail with the extensive construction of clinics, kindergartens, hospitals, apartment blocks, and other socioconsumer facilities being erected in the Cuban capital and its environs both by professional construction workers and by members of mini-brigades—collectives of volunteer builders.

F. Castro explained in detail the essence and tasks of the comprehensive social program being fulfilled in the country under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba on the basis of the decisions of its third congress.

On the same day A.F. Dobrynin and V.A. Medvedev visited the V.I. Lenin Park, where a monument has been set up to the leader of the world proletariat. Then they familiarized themselves with certain sights of the Cuban capital.

Today A.F. Dobrynin and V.A. Medvedev left for home.

They were seen off at Jose Marti International Airport by Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat; Julio Camacho, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and Cuban ambassador in the USSR; Lionel Soto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Secretariat; and other officials.

The send-off party included A.S. Kapto, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador to Cuba.

Political & Social

Further on Nagorno-Karabakh Controversy

Dolgikh, Lukyanov Meet Armenians

PM111519 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 28 Feb 88 p 1

[ARMENPRESS report: "Meeting With Working People"]

[Text] V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has met with the collective at an AES and the inhabitants of the power workers' settlement.

Familiarizing himself with the work of the AES, V.I. Dolgikh asked about the safety of its operation, the improvements to the reliability of the monitoring of all the station's systems and its equipment, and the power workers' social and everyday conditions. He drew attention to the need to ensure the strictest observance of technological discipline and to improve cadre's responsibility.

Answering questions put by the AES workers, he spoke frankly about the complex situation that has emerged in the republic and the difficulties associated with it.

The most important thing now is to concentrate on overcoming the prevailing situation and on resolving—in the spirit of the restructuring and renewal being implemented throughout our country—the specific economic, social, and other problems that have built up in the region. The friendship among the peoples of the Land of the Soviets—a priceless asset—must be cherished and strengthened in every possible way. Party organizations must lead all this work.

The AES collective assured him that through their selfless work, cohesion, and consciousness they would respond to the party call made in the Appeal to the working people and to the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

V.I. Dolgikh was accompanied by K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

The same day A.I. Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the "Lyuks" Footwear Factory and stores in Yerevan, and familiarized himself with the work of the subway system.

In his conversations with working people at the "Lyuks" Factory and inhabitants of the Armenian capital A.I. Lukyanov stressed that the main concern of the republic's production collectives at the present time must be to wholly restore their working rhythm and overcome the lags that have been permitted in fulfilling plans and contractual commitments for output shipments.

It is important for there to be a calm atmosphere in Yerevan and other cities and rayons in the republic, for public order to be observed, and for good relations to be maintained between people of all ethnic groups.

Addressing the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, inhabitants of the Armenian capital asked him to tell the party Central Committee and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev personally that they are fully resolved to completely make good the shortfalls at work on their days off.

A.I. Lukyanov was accompanied by F.T. Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers.

The meetings that V.I. Dolgikh and A.I. Lukyanov had with labor collectives in the Armenian capital and the inhabitants of the republic were held in a frank and unconstrained atmosphere. During these meetings confidence was expressed that the situation in the republic would be completely normalized through the efforts of all working people.

Dolgikh, Lukyanov Tour Armenia

PM111449 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 29 Feb 88 p 1

[ARMENPRESS report: "Meetings and Trips"]

[Text] V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and A.I. Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, continued to acquaint themselves with the republic.

During a meeting with workers of the Kanaker Aluminum Plant, they inquired about the enterprise's transition to self-financing and the establishment of economic accountability relations within the metallurgical workers' collective. Conversations with workers and engineers took place in production shops. Questions of improving output quality, introducing new equipment, and establishing good working conditions and comfortable living conditions were raised.

In response to the Appeal of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the working people and the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia, the workers of the Kanaker Aluminum Plant called on all the republic's labor collectives to redouble their efforts to make up for the losses of the past few days and to endeavor to achieve high production results. The metallurgical workers pledged to exceed the daily plan targets and to ensure full supplies of their output to allied enterprises in the country.

During the meetings much attention was paid to the problem of the working people's leisure time. This topic was also aired during the CPSU Central Committee secretaries' visit to the republic's biggest sports and concert complex. There they acquainted themselves with the plans for cultural services available to the capital's population during the current season.

In the course of frank conversations with the inhabitants of Yerevan in the city's streets and squares, V.I. Dolgikh and A.I. Lukyanov emphasized the need for the all-around strengthening of fraternal friendship between the Armenian and Azeri people and all the peoples of our country.

During a lively exchange of views, it was noted that a CPSU Central Committee plenum on problems of the nationalities policy will define ways to resolve the many complex questions which we have inherited from the past. They must be examined comprehensively, in the interests of the strengthening of our multinational state and taking account of the processes of revolutionary renewal which are under way in the country.

The development of the cooperative movement, and in particular the expansion on this basis of the network of public catering establishments, is helping to successfully implement the republic's social program. V.I. Dolgikh and A.I. Lukyanov assessed positively the organization of services for the population by one such enterprise which opened recently in the center of Yerevan.

Despite the fact that it was a nonworking day, the streets and squares were not as animated as usual. Tens of thousands of Yerevan inhabitants had voluntarily come to work on Sunday to rectify the economic situation at enterprises and to fulfill pledges for deliveries to fraternal republics.

Constant attention is being paid to maintaining public law and order and to safeguarding citizens' legitimate rights and interests. Public transport is operating according to the timetable and trade, service, and medical establishments are working normally.

V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and A.I. Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the city of Echmiadzin. They were accompanied on their travels by F.T. Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, and L.G. Saakyan, first secretary of the Yerevan Armenian Communist Party Gorkom.

Comparison of Demirchyan Statement

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian on 1 March carries on page 1 an item headlined "Statement by K.S. Demirchyan, First Secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, Broadcast on Armenian Television on 29 February 1988." This has been compared with the Yerevan Domestic Armenian version published in the 1 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp 42-43, revealing the following variations:

Page 42, column one, last paragraph, last sentence KOMMUNIST reads ...all enterprises and educational establishments.

Unanimously endorsing... (picking up column two, paragraph one, sentence one, substituting "educational" for "social")

Column two, paragraph two, sentence thirteen KOMMUNIST reads ...and to ensure discipline and public order. Investigative authorities... substituting "discipline and public" for "continued law and")

Paragraph three, sentence one KOMMUNIST reads ...is necessary to quash all rumors and provide more extensive, truthful, and prompt information. It is... (rewording to clear queried words)

Same paragraph, sentence three KOMMUNIST reads ...Armenians and Azerbaijanis everywhere.

I want to... (picking up paragraph four, sentence one, supplying "everywhere")

Page 43, column one, paragraph one, sentence one KOMMUNIST reads ...our country's might, and the guarantee of prosperity for all our nations and ethnic groups. It is the sacred duty of all of us to safeguard it, to strengthen it through... (rewording, omitting Armenian)

Paragraph two, last sentence KOMMUNIST reads ...this hour of new trials of our fraternity there will not be a single Armenian or Azerbaijani who will harm, mar, or cast aspersions on it.

We have lived... (picking up paragraph three, first sentence, rewording)

'Criminal Elements' Blamed

PM140953 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 10, 12-18 Mar 88 (Signed to Press 10 Mar) p 5

[Unattributed report under the "Problem in the Mirror of the Press" rubric: "The Situation Is Returning to Normal"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Azerbaijan's and Armenia's mass media are continuing to analyze the events that have taken place.

V.P. Trushin, USSR first deputy minister of internal affairs, and A.S. Shaginyan, Armenian SSR minister of internal affairs, spoke on Armenian Television 5 March. This is what they said.

The situation in Sumgait.

V.P. Trushin announced that he had been in the city several days previously and acquainted himself with the state of affairs in the localities and with the measures that have been taken and that are projected to maintain public order.

The security of the city inhabitants' persons and property is being reliably protected. All the requisite conditions have been set up to ensure that people can work calmly and the life of the city resumes its usual, normal keel as speedily as possible.

Naturally, it will take time for the whole picture to emerge and for all the circumstances behind the crimes to be revealed. But it is clear even today that the detainees include people with previous convictions, alcoholics, drug addicts, people who lead a parasitic way of life, and other criminal elements.

The situation is returning to normal in Stepanakert. All enterprises are operating and classes in schools are proceeding. There have been no signs of any excesses or group violations of public order.

We are examining most attentively, V.P. Trushin said, every call coming into Interior Ministry organs regarding crimes committed or alleged. Checks show that many rumors and conjectures are circulating which bear no relation to reality.

A.S. Shaginyan reported on the situation in Yerevan.

At present public order is being safeguarded at the requisite level in Yerevan and the republic's other cities and rayons. All enterprises, schools, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and educational establishments are operational. All municipal services are functioning normally.

BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY, the organ of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, has published an interview with G.A. Pogosyan, first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijan Communist Party Obkom, who stated that the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is returning to normal. The process of normalization is complex and is not unequivocal at all enterprises. However, people are returning to work.

He pointed out that the former leadership of the party obkom was to blame for the emergence of artifical difficulties with regard to cultural exchange, the provision of fiction and school textbooks in the native language, and other aspects of the multifaceted traditional ties between the working people of Nagorno-Karabakh and fraternal Armenia. These problems could and should have been resolved promptly.

The party obkom is confident, G.A. Pogosyan said, that the difficulties will be overcome and that soviet, trade union, economic, and Komsomol organs will do everything to ensure that the oblast's economic and political life is completely stabilized, make good the debts, and fulfill its contract commitments.

The newspaper then reports that the move to the republic's territory of groups of Azerbaijanis living in Kafanskiy, Dilizhanskiy, Idzhevanskiy, and certain other rayons in Armenia is having an impact on the situation in Azerbaijan. They are concentrated in Baku, Sumgait, Apsheronskiy, Imishlinskiy, Zangelanskiy, and a number of the republic's other rayons. The newcomers are willy-nilly becoming the purveyors of various rumors and ridiculous conjectures which do not correspond with reality.

Azerbaijanis coming from Armenia have been received at the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee. Their wishes and critical comments were heard attentively by senior CPSU Central Committee and Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee personnel. They have been informed that the Azerbaijan and Armenian Communist Party Central Committees are carefully following the development of the situation and are taking steps to ensure order and the safety of the citizens.

TV Shows Nagorno-Karabakh Town

LD121235 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent B. Baryshnikov, identified by caption] This is a district of central Nagorno-Karabakh, the town of Shusha, a town established in ancient times under the very clouds, the town where the great poet Vagiv wrote, a town where now Azerbaijanis and Armenians are not just neighbors but literally live together. [video shows street scene with people] Here is the first secondary school named after Uzir Gadzhibekov. In the Russian language classroom a senior class is being conducted by Svetlana Mangasarova Farsyan.

[Farsyan] They love the Russian language. Even when I take the younger children and ask them why they learn Russian, why they like this language so much, they tell me it is the language of our great leader, Vladimir Ilich Lenin, the language of Pushkin, the language of the Russian people.

[Baryshnikov] In 1941 dozens of bold, strong lads left this very school for the front. These never returned. [video shows tableau with photos of young men] Mudlin Apasov, Eyup Musayev, Belan Aleksserov, Yegish Arutunyan. Those who survived went on working for many years after the war, working and making friends with each other. They are very respected people in the town of Shusha.

[Yu. Musayev, chairman of Shusha's Council of Veterans of War and Labor, identified by caption] We are now continuing the friendship we had on the front. As you see, these comrades are all activists of ours, veterans of war and labor. They are today even better friends than before.

[K. Garakhanov, war veteran, identified by caption] Our Soviet people, whatever their nationality—Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Uzbek—used to help each other in the war like father and son, and I think it should be the same now. My wife is Azerbaijani, I have 17 children, and here no one wonders why an Armenian should marry an Azerbaijani—they never have wondered—and here there are Russians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis. We are like father and son, like brothers, that's how we've always lived.

Armenian Strike Canceled

LD121030 Hamburg DPA in German 0950 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Contrary to initial reports, the 1-hour protest strike planned for yesterday (Friday) in the Soviet Republic of Armenia did not take place, but was called off at the last minute. According to information from human rights activists, the organizational committee decided not to stage any more strikes or demonstrations until 26 March. Further action is planned after that date if the Soviet leadership fails to propose an acceptable solution by then. [passage omitted]

The Armenians are evidently divided in their views on future tactics. The radical nationalist leaders had originally planned a 3-day strike. However, it appears that the more moderate representatives asserted themselves.

Armenian Party Views 'Instructions'

NC130829 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0525 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the review of SOVETAN AYASTAN]

[Text] The paper publishes a front-page report by the ARMENIAN PRESS AGENCY [ARMENPRES] on a conference held at the Central Committee of the Armenian Communist Party. The conference deliberated the results of the CPSU Central Committee conference, which noted the situation that has emerged in Soviet Azerbaijan and Soviet Armenia in connection with events in Nagorno-Karabakh, and which is the urgent problem of the Republic's party organization.

The instructions of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee to organize a profound and all-round study of the accumulated problems in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and of the causes of the aggravation of inter-ethnic relations around it, and to draw up relevant proposals and submit them for consideration by the CPSU Central Committee and the Government of the USSR, were received with great satisfaction.

Armenians Mass at Moscow Cemetery

AU131700 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, March 13 (AFP)—About 1,000 Armenians, some waving nationalist banners, held a noisy meeting at a cemetery here Sunday to discuss latest developments sparked by unrest last month in the Armenian-dominated region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Also Sunday, dissident Soviet journalist Lev Timofeyev told AFP that 12 nationalist activists, including Armenian militants Parouir Airikian and Genrikh Altunian, were prevented from attending a 2-day seminar here on the nationalities problem.

Mr Timofeyev, who organised an unofficial human rights seminar three months ago, said that no Armenians were present at the seminar which nevertheless went through its normal agenda and adopted three resolutions on Sunday. A total 70 people attended, he said.

Security forces did not intervene at the Armenian cemetery here, as members of Moscow's Armenian community met outside the church for the second time in less than a week to discuss the inter-ethnic tensions in the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Some Armenians at the cemetery meeting, attended by an AFP reporter, expressed impatience with speakers who called for "calm and patience" while a "just solution" in Nagorno-Karabakh was sought. [passage omitted]

The situation there "will never be just, as long as it remains under Azerbaijani administration, especially after what happened in Sumgait," one speaker said to applause. [passage omitted]

The Armenians observed a minute's silence Sunday in memory of the Sumgait dead. According to the church priest, who appealed to the crowd for calm, a mass was held Sunday in Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, in the presence of 57 Armenian families from Sumgait who had fled to Armenia.

Armenian militant Parouir Airikian, who had bought his plane ticket to Moscow for the unofficial seminar, was told by the KGB secret police not to make the journey, according to Mr Timofeyev. Four other people from outside Russia were also warned not to travel to Moscow, while seven were stopped as they were boarding planes and trains.

Mr Timofeyev said that "twice as many people would have come" to Moscow if not for the intimidation by Soviet authorities. He was uncertain whether a second session of the seminar would be held as planned at the end of this month because of the official harassment.

All the participants approved a resolution calling for "broad discussion" of national problems in the Soviet Union, and a motion was passed in support of Crimean Tatars seeking to return to their Black Sea homeland. But the third resolution on religious freedom was only approved by 15 participants, he said.

Mr Timofeyev said the resolution on the Tatars supported their call for the restitution of an Autonomous Republic in Crimea, which became part of the Ukraine after thousands of Tatars were deported from the region to Central Asia in 1944. [passage omitted]

Tatars Permitted To Return to Crimea

LD111751 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1635 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 11 (TANJUG)—The Crimean Tatars, a people resettled by Stalin at the end of the Second World War, are starting to return to their homeland.

The newspaper PRAVDA VOSTOKA of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan where Tatars live, writes that the Uzbekistan republican commission for problems of the Crimean Tatars was informed of measures for the organised migration of their families to the Crimea.

The organised migration will be led by the State Committee for Labor and it will be perfomed, according to a government decision, in accord with conditions set for employment and settlement, PRAVDA VOSTOKA writes.

The article met with surprise in Moscow since the press had not published anything about the government decision.

The Crimean Tatars were resettled because some of them cooperated with the German occupation authorities. They have been trying to return to the Crimea over the past few decades.

Bearing in mind that a whole people cannot punished because of some traitors, the Crimean Tatars protested frequently, especially last year in Moscow when they organised a sit-down strike in the Red Square.

A state commission was formed headed by Andrey Gromyko which, after several months of work, announced that the position of the Crimean Tatars will be improved in the places where they live.

2000 Tatars Demonstrate in Tashkent

AU121550 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 12 (AFP)—About 2,000 Tatars demanding the right to return to live in the Crimea demonstrated for an hour Friday in Tashkent, Central Asia, Tatar militant Mustafa Djemilev said on Saturday.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that the demonstration passed off calmly, but that seven Tatars had been arrested and had not been released as of mid-day Saturday.

He said the demonstrators waved banners and posters demanding the right to live in Crimea, from which the Tatars were deported after World War Two for allegedly having collaborated occupying German forces.

In early March, a panel set up last July to consider the Tatar demands decided to let some families return to the Crimea. Mr. Djemilev said the step did not change the basic problem, since it concerned a very small number of families.

Authorities Bar Nationalists From Seminar

AU121948 Paris AFP in English 1933 GTM 12 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 12 (AFP)—Soviet authorities prevented 10 nationalist militants from attending a seminar in Moscow on the issue of nationalities in the Soviet Union, dissident journalist Lev Timofeyev said here Saturday. The two-day seminar, which opened in a private apartment in Moscow on Saturday, is being organised by Mr Timofeyev. Some 30 participants were at the seminar, an AGENCE FRAMCE-PRESSE correspondent said.

Six of the scheduled participants were forced to leave the train on which they were travelling to Moscow, and four others were prevented from leaving their home towns, Mr Timofeyev said. Those prevented from attending included Armenian nationalist Parouir Airikyan, Georgian militants Zviad Gamaskhourdia and Merab Kostava, and activists from the Baltic republics of Estonia and Lithuania. Mr Gamaskhourdia has begun a hunger strike and has sent a telegram to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in protest, a reliable source said.

A second session of the seminar is scheduled for March 26 and 27.

The seminar was originally due to take place last December but was postponed when Soviet authorities prevented some of the invited speakers from travelling to Moscow.

Refuseniks Begin Hunger Strike, Write Letter

AU131348 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 13 (AFP)—Two Soviet refuzniks, who have been waiting 17 years for permission to emigrate, began an unlimited hunger strike last Thursday [10 March], according to the latest weekly newsletter of the Contemporary Jewish Library published here at the weekend.

Inna and Yuli Kosharovski told the newsletter their gesture was "not a challenge but an act of despair."

Elsewhere, elderly couples, whose children have left home, have sent an open letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, President Ronald Reagan, French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher claiming their legitimate right to choose their place of residence and a "peaceful life."

In the letter, which the newsletter reproduced in full, they said they had been refused exit visas for state security reasons, although they had not had jobs in sectors affected by such considerations for between five years and 40 years.

They had all made multiple applications to the relevant authorities, including the Mr Gorbachev and the Supreme Soviet (parliament), without receiving a reply. All their peaceful demonstrations had been broken up and several of them had been interrogated for hours at police stations or placed under house arrest.

"We have exhausted all possibilities inside the Soviet Union to get ourselves heard and we must now appeal to you. We call on you to help us," they concluded.

The newsletter noted, however, that 730 Soviet Jews obtained exit visas in February, some of them after waiting for 10 years, and 722 in January.

It also reported that a group of Jews in Kiev, in the Ukraine, had formed a public council for Jewish religious affairs and one of their first moves had been to send a letter to the local authorities asking for a Jewish cemetery to be opened in the city.

Ligachev Attends Printing Industry Exhibition

LD101431 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] The democratization of Soviet society and broad glasnost are posing responsible new tasks to the country's news and publications complex. The successful solution of them depends to a large extent on the technical standard and quality of production of printing machine-building. An exhibition is under way at the PRAVDA publishing house of new industrial examples of printing equipment produced by Soviet enterprises, CEMA member-countries, and firms of a number of capitalist states.

On 9 March, the exhibition was visited by Comrades Ligachev, Slyunkov, Maslyukov, Talyzin, and Baklanov.

During the viewing of the exhibition it was stressed that the accelerated development of printing machine-building is not only a technical task, but also a political one. Over recent years there has been a considerable increase in subscriptions to newspapers and magazines. The demand for books is not being fully met. Meanwhile, the printing base in the country is developing extremely weakly. There is an acute shortage of up-to-date machinery. Demand for printing presses of certain types is being satisfied by under 50 percent.

As was noted, a key direction in the development of contemporary printing must be the wide application of electronic systems, especially in typesetting production. Discussions with leading officials of ministries and specialists on the possibilities for printing machine-building revealed a number of substantial shortcomings in the work of the subindustry [podotrasl]. The production of contemporary machinery is increasing slowly. There are delays in fulfilling the task of creating new and technically reequipping existing production facilities. Enterprises and organizations of allied sectors in industry frequently fail to satisfy the orders of printing machine-building to develop and supply components of the necessary technical standard and quality.

Works producing printing machinery are swamped with non-specific output. Insufficient attention is still being paid at these enterprises to solving social questions. Especially little housing is being built. Local party and soviet organs, in particular in Leningrad and Yaroslavl Oblast, are not giving enough help to printing enterprises in their technical and social development.

At a conference held after viewing the exhibition, specific measures were determined to ensure accelerated development of the country's printing industry. The transfer to producing new generation equipment and the broad utilization of electronic systems must become a priority direction. Enterprises of many industries of the national economy are being actively involved in the solution of this task.

Taking part in the viewing of the exhibition and the discussion of questions were Belousov and Silayev, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; Kruchina, administrator of affairs of the CPSU Central Committee; Belyakov and Volskiy, heads of department of the CPSU Central Committee; leading officials of a number of ministries and departments; and senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Monument Ceremony

AU111008 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 24 Feb 88 p 1

[RATAU report: "Forever in the People's Memory"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, on 23 February the inhabitants of Kiev gathered at the monument to

V.I. Lenin to pay tribute of love and respect to the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

At 1230 the meeting at the monument to V.I. Lenin was joined by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; I.A. Gerasimov; Yu.N. Yelchenko; Ye.V. Kachalovskiy; B.V. Kachura; V.A. Masol; I.A. Mozgovoy; V.A. Sologub; A.A. Titarenko; V.S. Shevchenko; S.I. Gurenko; Yu.A. Kolomiyets; V.D. Kryuchkov; and K.I. Masik; Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members.

The strains of the song "Lenin Is Always With You" rose over Kreshchatik. The leaders of the republic's Communist Party and government placed at the pedestal of the monument a basket with flowers.

The participants in the ceremony moved to the Square of Glory. [passage omitted] The leaders of the republic's Communist Party and government laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. [passage omitted]

Solovyev Addresses City Planning Conference
LD061610 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpts] To begin with, a report from our Leningrad correspondent. Party and Soviet staffers, architects, artists, scultors, scientists, and cultural figures gathered today in the Main Administration of Architectural Planning. Under discussion was the preservation and reconstruction of the historical center of the city. [passage omitted]

Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Leningrad obkom, spoke at the conference.

Lizichev Speaks at Writers' Meeting
PM141116 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 88 Second Edition p 1

["Our correspondent" report: "Meeting With Writers"]

[Text] A meeting with writers took place 10 March at the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, addressed the meeting.

Taking part in the discussion were G. Markov, chairman of the USSR Writers' Union Board; USSR Writers' Union secretaries Yu. Verchenko, N. Gorbachev, and A. Ivanov; and writers I. Stadnyuk, A. Prokhanov, B. Leonov, A. Chakovskiy, O. Mikhaylov, and S. Kolov. Topical problems of the military-patriotic education of working people, especially young people, and of the coverage in literature of the Soviet Armed Forces' life were discussed.

Chairman of National Education Committee Named
LD121201 Moscow TASS international Service in Russian 1146 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (TASS)—It has been announced here that the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Gennadiy Yagodin as chairman of the USSR State Committee for National Education.

Chairman of Nature Protection Committee Named
LD131402 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, 13 Mar (TASS)—The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Fedor Morgun chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Protection of Nature.

Fedor Morgun was born in 1924 and is Ukrainian. In 1949, he graduated from the Dnepropetrovsk Agricultural Institute. He has worked as a department manager, agronomist, and sovkhoz director. He took part in the opening up of the virgin lands of Kazakhstan. He was elected first secretary of a raykom, second secretary of an obkom, and was first deputy chairman of an oblispolkom and a krayispolkom.

In 1965 he was promoted to the CPSU Central Committee apparatus, where he worked as an instructor and a section head. In 1969 he was appointed first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kirghiz SSR. Beginning in 1972, he was an inspector of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and, beginning in 1973 he was first secretary of the Poltava Obkom of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

He is a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Drafting of New Criminal Code Explained
LD111729 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Riga March 11 TASS—A new chapter is expected to be added to the Soviet criminal code which envisages punishment for crimes against peace and humanity. This seems to be the only proposal that suggests the toughening of the punishment. On the whole, the new criminal code will be made more humane.

This has been stated by Igor Karpets, 66, director of the All-Union Institute of Problems of the Strengthening of Law and Order, who addressed today the public of Riga, capital of the Soviet Baltic Republic of Latvia. He told them about the working out of the new fundamentals of the criminal code. The fact that the public is being informed of this work is one of the stages of the development of new legal standards which will be adopted with due account for public opinion.

Karpets said that the main characteristic feature of the draft criminal code is greater protection for the rights and freedoms of citizens, specifically, in the sphere of the rules of procedure. For instance, to avoid pressure exerted on investigating officers it was suggested that they should be moved out of subordination to the local government bodies and that control over their work should be exercised within the framework of legality control by procuracy.

It is suggested, among other things, that especially complicated cases be tried by the Court of Superior Jurisdiction consisting of five members, not three which is the case today. It is worth recalling that in the USSR people's assessors taking part in the trials (cases are tried by a professional judge and two people's assessors) enjoy the same rights and judges.

According to Karpets, heated discussions are going on over the problem of capital punishment. Some people insist that it should be repealed altogether, while others insist that it should be preserved for some special cases. The latter view predominates at the moment, but a final decision will be worked out in the course of a nationwide discussion of the draft criminal code.

"The main purpose of the reorganization of the Soviet criminal code is to reliably protect people's rights and to guarantee strict observance of legality", he said.

RSFSR Prosecutor Views Law Enforcement Tasks

PM101157 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian
3 Mar 88 First Edition p 2

[RSFSR prosecutor S. Yemelyanov article under the rubric "View of Restructuring": "The Law as a Means of Influence"]

[Text] The demands to fundamentally improve the activity of all elements of society's economic and political system also fully relate to prosecutor's office organs, for their activity is in the thick of the most acute problems of social development.

We understand that the restructuring process is profound, lengthy, and difficult and requires collective discussion and vigorous efforts. In this connection meetings have been held with the participation of all city and rayon prosecutors in the republic—there are about 3,000 of us—in Bryansk, Barnaul, Vologda, Gorkiy, Krasnodar, Krasnoyarsk, and Moscow. The task was to consult with the leaders of this most important link on which the success of the cause depends to a decisive degree. The participation of CPSU Kraykom and Obkom first secretaries and leaders of industrial enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes made the discussion more topical and focused on solving the urgent problems brought to the fore by life itself. Many problems have accumulated. The national economy is suffering great losses because of shortages, embezzlement, waste in industry and construction, spoilage of agricultural output, and losses of livestock. Overreporting and violations of contractual delivery commitments continue to take place. Uninstalled equipment worth billions of rubles is nothing but a dead weight. The efficiency of work in the main direction—crime prevention—remains low. There are violations of legality in criminal judicial proceedings. The roots of bureaucracy and a bureaucratic attitude to work are tenacious, including in the work of the prosecutor's office. We are very seriously concerned by all this.

How are we organizing our restructuring work in practice, and what are its prospects?

The radical transformations of the economic mechanism begin with the main link—enterprises and associations—since it is precisely here that economic, political, and social relations really take shape—we see this as the essence and principal meaning of the Law on the State Enterprise (Association). Its execution is the focus of all the activities of prosecutor's office organs. The basic concern here is to defend the enterprise's rights and interests in every possible way and protect its activity from all kinds of illegal interference and distortions. The law now provides the basic concepts of restructuring in the economy and the social sphere. These concepts must become an integral part of our legal awareness. Today it is impossible to work without profound knowledge and understanding of the essence of this law.

Life will increasingly persistently bring forward new types of economic leaders of enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes who are enterprising, think and act in an original fashion, and secure greater efficiency in social production. It is important to protect such people from incompetent interference, various kinds of faultfinding, and also attempts to place the criminal law in their path. Prosecutor's office organs will do everything in their power to guard and protect these people and help create around them an atmosphere of creative labor and the search for efficient new methods of socialist management. In the conditions of expanding democracy, prosecutors should be closer to people. They should systematically report on their work to labor collectives and speak frankly and truthfully, not dodging from the most controversial questions.

We are not satisfied with the supervision of implementing environmental protection laws. It is necessary to move away more boldly from passivity and utilize more effective means to combat violations of nature conservation legislation. Prosecutors will unhesitatingly protest acts accepting for commissioning facilities which do not have antipollution installations and will take legal action against the guilty parties. In present conditions economic factors appear to be most effective in influencing the lawbreakers. So it is important to finish work on a system and mechanism for paying compensation for

damage to the environment. Here we have broad scope for activity with the organs of the RSFSR State Committee for Environmental Control and the State Board of Arbitration.

A quest is under way for the organization of more effectively supervising the implementation of laws directed at strengthening delivery discipline and the struggle against mismanagement, substandard output, unearned income, and embezzlement. Particularly, specific measures are being taken by prosecutors jointly with internal affairs and people's control organs and labor collectives to establish order at meat, dairy and food industry enterprises.

In the last 3 years a consistent decline has been recorded in crime in our republic. The number of serious crimes has decreased by 36 percent. There have been fewer murders, robberies with violence, thefts, manifestations of hooliganism, larceny, and traffic violations. It should be said that this is a result of the measures implemented by the party and state to overcome drunkenness and alcoholism, particularly at the first stage of their implementation. At the same time, the level of crime continues to remain high and a considerable proportion of it is determined by subjective factors, many of which can be eliminated right now. There are great reserves for reducing crime here.

To come to the structure of crime, 22 percent of crimes are theft of citizens' personal property, 13 percent are embezzlement, 8 percent are vandalism, 6 percent are traffic violations, 3 percent robbery and robbery with violence, and 0.8 percent murder.

More than one-fifth of crimes and 30-45 percent of murders, robberies, and burglaries are committed by people with previous convictions. It is particularly worrying that 10 percent of crimes are committed by minors. Some 24 percent are committed by people in an intoxicated state, and in recent months the number has grown. This is very alarming.

Recently members of the RSFSR Prosecutor's Office Collegium visited a number of autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts where the situation is unfavorable in order to provide practical aid. The conclusion was unequivocal: The struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism has been seriously slackened and the commissions for combating drunkenness and comrades' courts are reacting passively. Many instances of drunkenness at work, including some involving leaders, are not given a sharp political and legal assessment. Drinking dens and moonshiners making money by getting people drunk are poorly revealed. Medical and educational measures to overcome alcoholism are still underestimated, and many alcoholics are not sent for treatment, including compulsory treatment. Order has not been established in preventive occupational therapy centers, most of which have not been provided with their own production base. We are not satisfied with the state of supervision by the prosecutor's office, which bears a considerable share of responsibility for passivity in this work.

Taking into account the fact that measures to overcome drunkenness and alcoholism are today the most vital factors in preventing crime, increasing labor discipline, and producing a healthier lifestyle, we demand that supervision of antialcohol legislation implementation, particularly directed at combating moonshining, be the constant focus of the prosecutors' attention. An uncompromising struggle, firmness, and high principledness are needed here. There must be no respite, no concessions.

This applies equally to the problem of drug addiction.

But this, although very important, is nonetheless only a partial aspect of the problem of prevention.

K. Marx' remark that a wise legislator will prevent crimes to avoid being forced to punish people for them is well known. We must ensure that prevention of crimes and other infringements of the law is the main direction in law enforcement organs' activity. And not just in words but in deeds.

This question is very complicated. Certain additional material expenditure is needed here. Consequently, the crime prevention program should become an integral part of the state plans for the country's economic and social development.

Here a phased approach highlighting the most important problems is possible.

Take, for example, crimes committed by minors. Undoubtedly the main, decisive direction in the activity of the prosecutor's office here should be prevention. Therefore, as part of the system of restructuring measures, we envisage implementing, in conjunction with a wide range of state and public organizations, a republican program to prevent offenses by minors, and we have already started elaborating this program.

We are seeking new forms and methods of influencing the solution of this complicated problem. For example, in accordance with the decision of the coordination conference of leaders of the republic's law enforcement organs, city and rayon prosecutors and chiefs of internal affairs departments have for many years been participating in individual preventive work with teenagers registered with minors' affairs inspectorates. The task has been set of doing everything necessary to keep each of them from committing crimes and increase parents' responsibility for educating their children. We have obliged prosecutors to regularly visit children's homes and boarding schools, to assist them, to take measures to establish order there, and to defend the rights and interests of children and teenagers.

Many prosecutors and leaders of internal affairs organs are actively involved in this work and have realized its moral significance and the possibility of establishing personal contact with the difficult interior and exterior world in which teenagers live. The direct contact with children's sometimes tragic fates tugs at the heartstrings, makes people act more resolutely, and assists in eradicating the formal bureaucratic style in law enforcement organs' work.

The fact that violent, sometimes brutal, crimes are often committed by teenagers is also worrying. Recently group conflicts among young people have increased, and sometimes they end tragically. Other negative manifestations among young people are also well known.

Why is this?

There are many reasons. A great deal depends on material living conditions, the family moral atmosphere, the immediate environment, and a well ordered daily life and leisure. Very often spiritual aridity and a lack of a mutually respectful attitude is encountered.

I think that it is essential in this connection to increase very considerably the role of schools in shaping young people's personality and to promote their educational function. In particular, a fundamental improvement in the teaching of literature would assist greatly, since we have unique potential. In May 1950 Thomas Mann, lecturing at Chicago University, said: "Humanism as profound as that imbuing Russian literature, holy Russian literature, as I called it in one of my early works, has never existed anywhere else or at any other time." Unfortunately, literature lessons in our country are simply not up to the task. We are selling ourselves short, and as a result we are reaping spiritual aridity, with all its negative social consequences.

The CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum's resolution expressed it superbly, saying that education, being a powerful means of preserving, developing, and passing on from generation to generation the spiritual wealth accumulated by mankind, should be a priority in state policy.

Serious work lies ahead for us on the program to prevent recidivism. Its implementation must be yet another specific contribution to restructuring the work of law enforcement organs. Today the struggle against recidivism is dominated by methods of coercion, which are necessary but, as experience shows, are not having the proper effect. We all need to change our mentality, our attitude to people with previous convictions, particularly those who have returned from correctional labor establishments. Many of their families have broken up, and they have no housing. They require more attention, concern, and assistance in labor and domestic arrangements. In short, this is a very major social problem.

I do not want to be understood as saying: We will only concern ourselves now with prevention work. The essence of criminological policy is to do everything to prevent infringements of the law. But if a crime is committed, liability must inevitably follow. Everything that we know today about the abuses, instances of corruption, and organized embezzlement which have been revealed is to a significant extent thanks to the selfless work of investigators and workers of the Struggle Against Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation and criminal investigation organs.

But much that cannot be tolerated in law enforcement practice has been accumulated. The problem of ensuring legality, including the activity of law enforcement organs, remains acute. It particularly concerns us prosecutor's office personnel. The fact that there are such occurrences indicates serious shortcomings in implementing supervision by the prosecutor's office. I am not talking about those instances where prosecutors themselves break the law.

But for all that, the great daily work conducted by the prosecutor's office in ensuring legality should not be forgotten. The rights of some 60,000 people are restored each year merely as result of the examination of letters and complaints. Violations of legality in Volgograd, Rostov, Irkutsk, and certain other oblasts have been examined by the RSFSR Prosecutor's Office. These phenomena are certainly analyzed and examined at various levels, and lessons are drawn from them.

The main reason for all the failings in criminal judicial procedure and in resolving the tasks of ensuring the inevitability of punishment, particularly for serious crimes, lies in the fact that the investigation apparatus is poorly trained from the professional viewpoint. Hence the poor quality of investigation, oversimplification, instances of prosecution bias, and violations of socialist legality.

Bureaucratic arrogance, callousness, and a disrespectful attitude to people are what usually lead to superficial decisions in the choice of measures to secure the defendant's appearance, unjustified detentions and searches, groundless suspicions which compromise a person in the eyes of those around him, and unceremonious, repeated interrogations, which make citizens reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement organs. Violations are being assessed increasingly sternly, including bringing the culprits to trial.

At present the attention paid to questions of selecting, training, and retraining investigation cadres has been stepped up. A profound study of the tenets about the presumption of innocence has been made everywhere, a restructuring of legal awareness is in progress, and lessons are being learned from past violations of legality. As

with any profound process in life, this process is proceeding with difficulty in the sphere of improving law enforcement activity, and resistance also has to be overcome. Moreover, it has affected literally every worker, whatever his position.

A reform of the investigation apparatus is long overdue. It should basically be in one place. It would be better if this were an independent organ, with the prosecutor retaining the right to pursue any case if the interests of establishing objective truth and opposing any influences demand this. In particular, it may be a question of the prosecutor's office investigating cases of crimes committed by workers of the law enforcement organs, violations of legality, and so on. There are many such cases.

The question of fundamentally strengthening supervision by the prosecutor's office at all stages of criminal judicial procedure has become very serious. Here the prosecutor has only one function: to take timely measures envisaged by the law to eliminate any violations of the law, wherever these violations originate. The prosecutor does not and cannot have any other purpose, interest or function.

However, today, not only in practice and theory, but also in existing legislation, there is no single understanding of the prosecutor's function at the trial stage. The fact that the prosecutor is also vested with the function of indictment prevents him from fulfilling the main task: implementing the highest supervision over the precise and uniform implementation of the laws, in other words, the purpose for which the Soviet prosecutor's office was created on V.I. Lenin's initiative and which is enshrined in the USSR Constitution. Supervision by the prosecutor's office must everywhere become one of the most important guarantees of justice, the strictest observance of legality, and the protection of citizens' rights in every possible way.

Book on Restructuring in Legal Sphere Reviewed

PM101131 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 88 Second Edition p 3

[Book review by Ye. Chekharin, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "The Law and Restructuring"]

[Text] This book (footnote) (S.S. Alekseyev. The Law And Restructuring. Questions, Considerations, Prognoses. [Pravo i Perestroyka. Voprosy, Razdumya, Prognozy] Moscow, "Yuridicheskaya Literatura," 1987) is very much a sign of the times. Not just because it shows that publishers are addressing today's problems, but also because the law, legislation, and justice, in the course of restructuring, are "hot spots" of the major changes and fundamental transformations taking place in our society. It is becoming increasingly clear now that the problems, difficulties, and awkward questions arising in the course of these changes and transformations urgently demand effective legal provision.

As the book's author writes, in the not-too-distant past and sometimes even now, the law has been, and is, underestimated. By no means everywhere have the provisions on the legal foundation of state and public life formulated in party documents become a reality.

The work sets out to substantiate the idea that the development and strengthening of the law and legality are the implementation of a very important idea of Lenin's theoretical legacy and of the cause of Great October. The need for the strictest rule of law and improved legislation and the need to attach great prestige and value to the law—a powerful organizing and disciplining factor expressing the highly humanitarian principles of socialist society and genuine social justice—follows from the very nature of the Marxist-Leninist world-outlook and from the nature of the socialist system.

Written in the form of a dialogue, a frank conversation with the reader, the book is distinguished by its constructiveness. The core of the book is the illumination and substantiation of the major changes in the sphere of the Soviet legal system. Considerable steps have already been taken in this direction since the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) plenum and 27th party congress. This is evidenced by the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), the Law on Individual Labor Activity, and other laws and juridical documents. Their main feature is a genuinely Leninist, innovative spirit, the establishment of general authorization principles in many spheres of legal regulation, and the gearing of them to the development of the creative activeness, independence, and initiative of working people and their collectives, and the principles of self-management and real social justice. New juridical thinking is taking shape, orientated toward the law, toward man's lofty status in a socialist society.

The book also reveals some untapped reserves in the sphere of the law and talks of the need to bring into play its entire potential in the interests of restructuring, of measures which would contribute even more to the utilization of legal levers in the solution of urgent economic, political, and sociocultural tasks. They include the preparation of a number of new laws (such as, for example, the law on the principles of national economic management, legislation on consumer rights), the further consolidation of the real human rights that exist under socialism, the improvement of justice and instilling of a high standard of legal culture, and the development of universal legal education in the country.

The book "The Law and Restructuring" will certainly be of interest to the reader and will help him to understand matters pertaining to restructuring in a critical, vital area of our society's life.

Presidium Views Moldavian Drink, Drug Problems

PM091918 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: On the Work of the Moldavian SSR Soviets of People's Deputies To Step Up the Struggle Against Drunkenness and Drug Addiction"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session examined the work of the Moldavian SSR soviets of people's deputies in stepping up the struggle against drunkenness and drug addiction.

The resolution adopted notes that the soviets and other state organs and public organizations of the Moldavian SSR have implemented a number of measures to step up the struggle against drunkenness and drug addiction, strengthen law and order, and establish a healthy way of life. Work is under way to regulate the production and sale of wines and spirits. Thirty-five winemaking plants have been reassigned to the production of juices and nonalcoholic beverages. Some 5,000 commissions for combating drunkenness have been set up and are operating at enterprises. The voluntary temperance society unites nearly 200,000 people.

At the same time many state organs and public organizations in the republic have recently relaxed the struggle against drunkenness and the associated negative phenomena. Last year some 100,000 people were exposed and called to account for violations of antialcohol legislation. The number of instances of drunkenness at work increased. During the year 22,700 intoxicated transport drivers were detained. One in every three crimes is committed in a state of intoxication, which is significantly higher than the average level for the country.

In the cities of Kishinev and Tiraspol and in Kalarashskiy, Soroksky, and other rayons there has been an increase in the number of juveniles, including students, found intoxicated in public places.

Drug use, especially among young people, is not falling.

In the last 2 years home distilling has become widespread, along with the use of sugar for this purpose. The reduction which took place at one time in the sale of liqueurs and spirits was not backed up by the production of sufficient quantities of nonalcoholic beverages and food and industrial products, or by an expansion in cultural and consumer services.

One of the main causes of the unsatisfactory situation regarding drunkenness and drug addiction is that in the Moldavian SSR the efforts of the soviets and the public to combat these ugly phenomena are not concentrated. In many rayons the matter has been approached as if it was a short-term campaign, and there is no proper coordination of economic and law enforcement organs and public organizations in implementing a range of measures to overcome drunkenness. The republic Council of Ministers Commission for Combating Drunkenness operates sluggishly and insufficiently effectively, as do similar commissions locally.

In the labor collectives there is poor individual work with people who abuse alcohol. Certain enterprise leaders, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and people's control organs show a lack of principle in combating drunkenness and violations of state and labor discipline. Every third report from the law enforcement organs on a violation of antialcohol legislation is not responded to or discussed in the collectives.

The soviets of people's deputies and their organs are not properly involved in mobilizing the population to combat drunkenness in daily life or in matters of the rational utilization of free time. Often the working people's leisure is organized purely formally, without considering people's spiritual needs and creative interests. The potential of cultural institutions and sports facilities is only 60-70 percent utilized.

Leaders of soviet, economic, and law enforcement organs rarely meet with young workers and students and do not display true concern for developing high moral qualities, culture, social activeness, and civic responsibility in them. Individual work with specific people, especially in less fortunate families, is replaced by generalized appeals.

Medical assistance and treatment of people suffering from alcoholism need to be radically improved, especially since the level of such disease remains high. The republic Ministry of Health does not devote due attention to the work of the drugs service or ensure that it is called strictly to account for shortcomings in its work.

The role of public organizations, the voluntary temperance society, women's and sports organizations, and cultural bodies in preventing and eradicating drunkenness is ineffectual. They are not really active in the struggle against drunkenness and do not exert a due influence on people's behavior at work and at home or on improving the moral climate in the family.

The republic's law enforcement organs do poor work in preventing and curtailing drunkenness and home distilling, and their activity is insufficiently aggressive.

The work of the mass media in covering problems of overcoming drunkenness and drug addiction is not up to present-day needs. Here a superficial approach prevails and the great economic and moral harm done by alcohol and drug use to society, the family, and people's health is not revealed. Public opinion and working people's letters on these issues are only poorly studied and utilized.

There are substantial shortcomings in the struggle against drunkenness in other regions of the country too. An increase has recently been observed in crimes associated with drunkenness in the Lithuanian and Kirghiz Union Republics, the Mordovian and North Osetian ASSR's, Krasnodar Kray, and Amur, Astrakhan, Belgorod, Perm, and Ryazan Oblasts. Home distilling has increased in the Ukraine, Belorussia, the Kabardino-Balkar and Udmurt ASSR's, Altay and Stavropol Krays, and Volgograd, Kursk, Novosibirsk, and Yaroslavl Oblasts. The number of people punished for misdemeanors associated with the manufacture and sale of home brew has more than doubled.

The state of the struggle against drug addiction, especially among young people, is causing great concern in such republics as Kirghizia and Turkmenia, as well as in a number of oblasts of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Many organs of enlightenment, vocational and technical education, higher and secondary specialized education, and health care patently underestimate the pernicious consequences of drug addiction and are not really involved in preventing it.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium noted that the serious shortcomings which exist in the Moldavian SSR in overcoming drunkenness and drug addiction indicate the lack of due concern on the part of the republic's state organs and public organizations for persistently implementing the party's demands for resolutely eradicating these social vices, which greatly harm society's interests and people's health.

The republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium, Council of Ministers, and local soviets are instructed:

On the basis of a profound and comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs, radically to restructure work in preventing and stopping drunkenness, home distilling, and drug addiction, establishing a healthy way of life and socialist morality, and strengthening discipline and law and order;

In the light of the working people's criticisms and proposals, to implement additional measures to step up the struggle against drunkenness and drug addiction. To this end, to ensure an effective combination of educational, economic, medical, and legal measures and pool the actions of all state and public organs and labor collectives;

To deal strictly with those leaders of enterprises, organizations, and institutions who tolerate drunkards, conceal instances of the consumption of alcoholic drinks at work, and fail to wage an active struggle against violators of labor discipline;

To show high exactingness toward law enforcement organs and health care organs for daily implementing concrete measures to overcome drunkenness and for organizing individual prophylactic and health restoration work with people using alcohol and drugs;

To step up considerably the work of the commissions for combating drunkenness, comradely courts, public centers for safeguarding order, organizations of the temperance society, and other public associations. To improve cultural enlightenment and educational work at places of residence.

The attention of the union and autonomous republic supreme soviet presidiums, councils of ministers and local soviets of people's deputies is drawn to the need for strictly fulfilling the requirements of antialcohol legislation. It is necessary to step up the role of the standing commissions of the soviets, all the deputies, labor collectives, and public organizations in this matter, eradicate the superficial approach, and increase the responsibility of soviet cadres for the results of work.

The editorial offices of the newspaper IZVESTIYA, the journal SOVETY NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV, and other mass media are advised to give wide coverage to work by the soviets and other state organs and public organizations in overcoming drunkenness and drug addiction and convincingly publicize positive experience in resolving these social problems.

The USSR Ministry of Health, the USSR Ministry of Culture, public education organs, and the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport are instructed to improve work in the moral, physical, and aesthetic education of citizens and the strengthening of the population's health. Practical assistance must be given to the corresponding institutions in the Moldavian SSR.

The USSR Ministry of Justice, the USSR MVD, the USSR General Prosecutor, and the USSR Supreme Court, with the participation of other interested departments, are instructed to examine proposals made to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium by USSR Supreme Soviet deputies and state organs on improving antialcohol legislation and increasing the effectiveness of its application. Where necessary, corresponding proposals are to be prepared and submitted in accordance with established procedure.

Ukrainian Party Censures Enterprise Collective

AU111009 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 28 Feb 88 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Excerpts] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat has examined the work performed by Gayvoronskiy Raykom in Kirovograd Oblast to restructure party leadership in the economy and

concluded that this work still had not fully met the requirements of the 27th Party Congress and the successive CPSU Central Committee plenums. [passage omitted]

The question of the working people's 1987 letters and oral applications to the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Council of Ministers, Trade Unions Council, and People's Control Committee has been examined. [passage omitted]

The Secretariat has approved the proposal made by the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture, Trade Unions Council, Komsomol Central Committee, and the boards of the Ukrainian unions of writers, artists, composers, cinematographers, theater figures, journalists, and architects to organize in the October Palace of Culture in Kiev a republic-level cultural and educational center, the "Druzhba."

The question of gross violations of state discipline, and of book padding and eye wash practices at the "Novokramatorsk Machine Building Plant" Production Association has been examined. The Central Committee strongly reprimanded Comrade Ye.A. Matsegora, director general of the association, for failure to take effective steps to prevent and stop practices of padding and distorting accounts, and warned him that if these practices are repeated, he would be brought to even stricter party account and would be dismissed from his post. Comrade N.P. Shapovalov, party committee secretary, was reprimanded. The party committee has been instructed to bring to party account leaders of shops and production units involved in padding accounts and distortions.

Obkoms and Kiev Gorkom have been instructed to analyze in the first half of the current year the progress made in implementing the decisions adopted by the CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committees on intensifying the struggle against padding and distorting statistical reports.

Ukraine's Petroleum Ministry Renamed

AU101745 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 4 Mar 88 p 1

["Decree of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"; Kiev, 3 March]

[Text] In conformity with the 16 October 1987 decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium "On the Transformation of the Union-Republic Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry into the All-Union USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry," the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to abolish the Ukrainian SSR Main Administration for the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The City of Kiev, 3 March 1988

Measures To Shape 'Socialist Consciousness'

AU110957 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 4 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Excerpts] At its recent routine session, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo determined immediate measures to organize in the republic the implementation of the decisions adopted by the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum. Obkoms, gorkoms, raykoms, and basic party organizations have been instructed to make active use of all means of party political influence to shape the working people's socialist consciousness, to raise the standards of their education, political culture, good organization, and discipline, and to boost their convictions and patriotic and internationalist feelings. The instruction has been given to proceed from the assumption that the education and training of the younger generation is at present one of the decisive conditions for the dynamic development of social, economic, and intellectual progress.

The issue of restructuring the construction complex, and measures to ensure the fulfillment of the 1988 plans for putting into service social facilities and the most important production capacities were discussed.

Measures were mapped out to accelerate individual housing construction. [passage omitted]

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers have adopted a decision to bring about a radical shift in the economical and rational use of water resources, and protecting them from pollution and exhaustion. [passage omitted]

The discussion covered ways to ensure a balance between the population's cash incomes and expenditures, to meet people's needs for various commodities and services more fully, and to make payments to the budget. It was noted that the insufficient volumes of the plans for the production of goods, for commodity turnover, and for rendering payable services, and—in a number of places—the failure to fulfill them had resulted in insufficient cash being on hand and in intolerable delays in the payment of wages to the working people.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has called the attention of the republic's ministries, departments, and oblispolkoms to the need to take effective measures and to remedy the situation. The instruction has been given to ensure, as soon as possible, a sharp increase in the production of goods for the

population at the "group A" enterprises. Everywhere it is important to display enterprise and flexibility, and to hasten the development of payable services. This is a matter in which all enterprises and organizations, irrespective of their departmental subordination, should be engaged. All-round support has to be given to the cooperative and individual forms of the citizens' labor activity in manufacturing commodities and in rendering services.

A number of other questions concerning the republic's sociopolitical life were also examined.

Kzyl-Orda Obkom Chief Discusses Restructuring

PM090927 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 88 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Kzyl-Orda Kazakh Communist Party Obkom First Secretary Ye. Auyelbekov answering PRAVDA questions under the rubric "Toward the 19th All-Union Party Conference: How Restructuring Is Progressing": "Learning The Lessons"; first two paragraphs are PRAVDA questions]

[Text] 1. What are you taking with you to the 19th All-Union Party Conference? What positive experience of restructuring has emerged in your party organization since the 27th CPSU Congress?

2. What difficulties and problems are there in this work?

1. The stagnation phenomena and negative trends in Kazakhstan discussed in principled fashion in the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the Kazakh Republican Party Organization's Work on the International and Patriotic Education of Working People" were entirely typical of Kzyl-Orda Oblast. Moreover, it was considerably behind in its development through the fault of the republic's former leadership. The oblast accounted for less than 1 percent of the republic's overall industrial output. We shipped in many consumer goods which could easily have been produced locally. At the same time, one-fourth of labor resources was not used. The population's real income was 1.5 times lower than the Kazakhstan average.

The obkom finally got the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers to adopt a resolution on measures to accelerate the oblast's development. But even before that, the committee had tackled the cadres question. After all, it was failures in cadre policy which had been one of the main causes of the lag. Politically immature and ill-prepared personnel were often promoted to leading posts on the basis of favoritism. Self-glorification flourished at all levels.

All this had to be rectified and arrogance, lordliness, and local leaderism had to be eradicated. Questions of representation on leading bodies in the light of the ethnic composition [of the population—FBIS] needed considerable adjustment. Suffice it to say that only recently, even the party Obkom Propaganda and Agitation Department was entirely staffed by people of the indigenous nationality.

Over a 2-year period, more than 200 leaders on the nomenklatura of the party obkom, gorkoms, and raykoms have been released in the oblast. Increasingly we are taking labor collectives' opinions into account in this matter.

Among the 27th CPSU Congress recommendations on restructuring party work, we place the emphasis on accountability reports by Communists, primarily leaders, on the fulfillment of regulation and official duties, the training of a reserve, and personal involvement in the education of labor collectives, in particular international education. An exacting demand. As a result of reports, D. Dzharmakhanov, director of the brickworks of the Main Administration for the Construction of Rice-Growing Sovkhozes, T. Nurseitov, deputy director of a construction materials and structures combine, and others were demoted and incurred party penalties. The performance appraisal reports on personnel approved at the party obkom or at gorkoms and raykoms are published in the press, as a rule.

The party obkom began by restructuring its own work style and methods. "Excursions" to party organizations were stopped. We demanded actual results from every trip by a senior apparatus staffer.

Every day we see how important feedback is. The oblast party committees' reports on work to lead restructuring were a kind of lesson in truth. For the first time at plenums, we polled the participants and told everyone the general opinion of each member of the bureau at the end of sessions. Some had to radically alter their approaches to their work, their behavior, and their attitudes toward party comrades.

We did the same at the obkom plenum. Perhaps the assessments in some cases were not exactly pleasant, but they did reveal omissions we had gotten used to. And this is indeed very important in the period of preparations for the All-Union Party Conference.

The discussion of the reports by elected party bodies made it possible to take a fresh look at many things we had become accustomed to. The section sessions were substantially enriched. It enabled nearly 50 communists to address the obkom plenum alone. I believe that many of the proposals that were made deserve to be discussed at the All-Union Party Conference. For example, here is one that is geared to the further democratization of party life: direct election of party bureau, party committee, and party raykom, gorkom, and obkom secretaries by secret ballot at party meetings and conferences by all Communists and delegates. A determined effort must be made to get rid of unnecessary rules and regulations. For

example, we should authorize party committees to coopt not only leading, but also ordinary members of elected bodies between conferences. They must establish their membership on the spot, taking into account the specific situation, without trying to fit in with a schedule passed down from on high.

Has all this work affected affairs in the oblast? In the current 5-year plan its development rate is ahead of that stated in the directives. Industrial production has increased by 13 percent. Nearly as many schools have been commissioned in the first 2 years as in the whole of the last 5-year plan and the housing waiting list has been cut by one-fourth. The 2-year plans for the sale of grain and potatoes, meat and milk, and eggs to the state were fulfilled by the 70th anniversary of October. New, nontraditional industrial sectors—mining and oil extraction—are coming into being.

It is important now to ensure a fitting greeting for the upcoming party forum. We are approaching it in the mood for work. We can sense the increased demands being made by collectives. Today no leader will get far on performance alone, as they say. The significance is increasing of such qualities as competence, a sense of the new, boldness, and willingness to assume responsibility.

This year around 25 percent of our enterprises are operating in radical reform conditions. The party obkom has held a series of lectures and practical classes on the elements of reform and the Law on the State Enterprise. We expect a great deal of the Obkom Economic Department, which was set up early this year and is staffed by personnel from three other sector departments. But I think that in order to intensify political methods of leadership, eliminate duplication in the activity of soviet and party bodies, and improve work with cadres it would be advisable to have one department with corresponding sectors instead of the four departments. We believe that this kind of reorganization should also be carried out in party raykoms and gorkoms.

2. The straitjacket of yesterday's notions about the role of initiative and independence still grips tight. For instance, the gorispolkom has total charge of questions connected with the development of municipal services in the city of Kzyl-Orda and the work of enterprises and organizations in winter conditions. But then, at the obkom plenum, its chairman, A. Abzaliyev, placed these questions before the... party obkom. And he is not alone in this kind of parasitical attitude.

In the oblast today it is extremely important to bring about a rapid improvement in the construction industry. Above all it is necessary to radically improve matters at the silica building materials plant. It is a small party organization with a part-time secretary. But we cannot send an experienced obkom instructor there as a full-fledged party organizer because it is not provided for either in the table of organization or in the party budget. Considerable grounds are needed for such a decision to be taken. We are demanding flexibility in these matters on the part of economic managers—why are they conservative themselves? In our view it is necessary to authorize party obkoms, within the limits of the approved wages fund, to decide on their own apparatus structure and number of personnel and to award different salaries according to service and experience.

The attitude of some ministries and departments is not helping to strengthen oblast party organs' authority either. For example, three union resolutions have been adopted on the development of the "Kzylordarismash" plant. Just to get it built quickly: We produce one-fifth of the country's rice and we have an abundance of manpower. But in the last 5-year plan the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building did not even allocate 5 percent of the requisite capital investments. The picture is the same now.

Throwbacks to the old ways are also making themselves felt in our affairs. Some people reckon that the "cleanup wave" will pass and exhaust itself—and one will be able to return quietly to former ways. For example, Oblast Communications Administration Chief A. Kubeyev appointed A. Dosmambetova leader of a computer station against the wishes of the collective, which wanted to abolish the position altogether. The secret was simple—she was a relative. An isolated case perhaps. But it is a warning that one must not let up. It is more difficult to retrieve positions once they have been abandoned.

Ministry Paralyzed by Prospect of Job Cuts

PM091345 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian
28 Feb 88 First Edition p 2

[G. Podlesskikh report: "Suitcase Sentiments. Why the Machine Tool Building Headquarters Is Working Inefficiently"]

[Text] Moscow—One is struck by the numbers of travelers at the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry. Their faces bear the print of meek resignation, like transiting air passengers when all flights are delayed for several days because of bad weather. There is a similarity with a station because of the seats for smoking on every landing. Burly directors of large enterprises discuss sport in detail there, exchange news about production, and ask after each other. But then they again take their places in the line for the ministerial offices.

These offices now have no time for visitors. They have their own problems and quite different concerns. Such protocols, such technical targets! You do not know what seat you will occupy tomorrow, or whether it will even be there any more! After all, over 1,000 staffers at the sector headquarters have been preparing for around a year to move to a new management system that envisages considerable cuts in staffing. Who will remain and who will have to look for a new job? A great deal of mental energy

and worktime is being wasted on these guessing games! That is why the productivity of most of the specialists has currently fallen to critical levels.

"No one is even doing half a job," D. Razhmanov, chief technologist of the forging and pressing main administration, believes.

I remember that last December Yu. Segenyuk, secretary of the ministry party committee, sadly stated in an attempt to choose a cautious formula that "the excessively protracted work to set up a new administrative system and the absence in certain subdivisions of precise information on the progress of the work have had a negative impact on the psychological climate in the collective. The opinion of a number of skilled specialists has not been heeded and the habit of solving questions within a narrow circle has by no means been eradicated. An atmosphere has not been created in subdivisions that encourages everyone to seek effective solutions and to exchange opinions openly and candidly."

Since then the problem of "suitcase sentiments" has hardly budged. The state of waiting-room uncertainty about their position is having a demoralizing effect on administrative workers. Meanwhile the state of affairs in the machine tool building sector is quite critical. Around 100 enterprises—that is, almost one in every four—failed to cope with last year's targets. Certain plants only fulfilled between 63 and 71 percent of the plan. At a time when enterprises are switching to economic accountability there are increasing complaints from labor collectives about the ministry apparatus. The difficulties and squabbling during the transitional period are largely explained by administrative shortcomings in the sector headquarters—unbalanced plans, unrealistic targets, failures to deliver output under production sharing arrangements.... There ought to be a meaningful investigation of every case. But their hearts are not in it. They are held in thrall by the prospect of imminent cuts.

In general, it is not hard to relate to the ministry workers. Any day now leading cadres could be called in to the administration to be told that their jobs are being cut. So what is the point of being zealous, striving, solving, and trying hard? Three times people at the Kuybyshev Jig Boring Plant asked V. Bolotov, chief of the machine tool main administration, to help them clarify the production program. Each time without result. It was only after the plant workers appealed to directive organs that things finally got moving. Here is another typical example. The ministry drew up measures to improve the financial position of enterprises. A corresponding order was issued. However, nobody in the central apparatus spent very long lifting a finger to organize its fulfillment. The same uninterested attitude prevails with regard to the dissemination of front-ranking experience in creating new-generation equipment, in the specialization of plants, and in the creation and coordination at enterprises of domestic rather than imported programable systems....

A recent enlarged session of the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry Collegium and the Machine Building and Instrument Making Workers Union Central Committee, which analyzed the results of the past year, stressed that the working style and methods of the sector headquarters do not match up to the new economic management conditions and the high demands of restructuring. Inefficiency and sluggishness in the implementation of plans have become ingrained and a reliable system of controls is lacking.

This is the natural consequence of suitcase sentiments, which have become a kind of chronic ailment among the ministry apparatus. Recognizing the perniciousness of further delays, the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry Collegium and the Machine Building and Instrument Making Workers Union Central Committee resolved to complete the restructuring of the sector's work in accordance with the new general management scheme in the 1st quarter of 1988. It is planned to eliminate eight production main administrations and to create state production associations. But what is to be done about staff cuts?

In the opinion of N. Makarova, leading engineer at the Glavstankolinitya [Main Administration for Machine Tool Lines] Production Department, we are now seeing the latest attempt to "scare the birds away." As soon as the noise dies down, everyone will go back to their desks, as has often happened in the past. Overmanning is a corrupting influence. People often simply have nothing to do—they come to their offices to chat to their hearts' content and take a rest from domestic concerns. Workers in the production department have long since turned into order-dispatchers of the lowest qualification. All they do is hang on the telephone every day, asking enterprises for all kinds of information.

So this time too Natalya Sergeyevna has no great faith in the seriousness of the planned transformations. She has often volunteered to carry out the duties of those who have been fired for no extra salary. And that is no easy matter. But Department Chief V. Rudakov invariably refuses and hires new people to replace those who are fired. Why? "What if you take leave or go on a business trip?" In such cases, one would think, there is the department chief. But why should Valeriy Fedorovich have extra worries? Other leaders clearly think in the same way. Here is a typical characteristic. It was reported at the leading cadres administration that the Glavstankolinitya Production Department was planning to cut just two posts. Yet N. Makarova is convinced that only four of the eight workers are needed at most. Who is in a better position to judge?

I have discussed the situation and sentiments in one department in such detail because they typify many other subdivisions at the sector headquarters. And here is another thing. Most people with whom I spoke talked with alarm and bitterness about the absence of glasnost

in the selection of candidates and advocated the holding of examinations and competitions for those wishing to obtain a job in the new state production associations that are being set up.

You will agree, L. Davtyan, leading engineer at the forging and pressing administration, noted, that it is hard to believe that behind the closed doors of managers' offices people are guided exclusively by professional qualities when your destiny is decided by a narrow circle. Is it not the case that yes-men are favored over those who have their own opinions and are prepared to defend them? Clearly, Leonid Nikolayevich himself does not doubt this. That is why he chose to meet at the deserted end of the corridor.

The transition to the new management structure should not be limited to label-switching. Will production associations be able to resolve tasks of a qualitatively different level if in terms of the structure thought up at the sector headquarters there is no fundamental difference between them and today's main administrations? After all, the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry even plans to introduce first and second category engineers into the apparatus of state production associations. Needless to say, any specialist worth his salt will not take such a job. It is unskilled and poorly paid work which has nothing in common with engineering. It all boils down to telephoning plants to order the management either to answer the phone, file papers, or carry out the simplest calculations.... I have encountered such workers in many offices.

Take, for instance, the Glavstankolinziya Technology, Mechanization, Automation, and Production Organization Department. Sounds important! However, behind the impressive label is run-of-the-mill bureaucracy. G. Pozdnyakova is usually well and truly bored behind an empty desk. She is an engineer in name only, her education is secondary technical level. She is never late, is on hand for every phone call, and is tidy and efficient. So people are satisfied with her. But she herself only values her job because she lives near the ministry. The same is broadly true of N. Suslova from the Forging and Pressing Administration Technological Department. The new state production associations will be composed of these "secondary technical" engineers who will then write officialese as before!...

And, one supposes, they will not be any more successful. The enterprises subordinate to the forging and pressing administration are in an extremely difficult financial position. Last year the profit plan was just 72.6 percent fulfilled, and the delivery shortfall amounted to almost R47 million. A whole string of plants is showing a catastrophically low return on investment. Why?

"Plants are used to living off the state," V. Romanchuk, chief of the administration's planning and economic department, believes. "They have gotten used to decisions being made for them and have not seriously tackled their economic performance."

One could probably agree with this. Except that Vitaliy Nikolayevich is losing sight of the fact that decisions are made at the ministry with his participation. And the separate state production association apparatus currently being set up will inevitably give rise to orders and edicts. So where will economic autonomy come from?

Just why has the reorganization of the headquarters apparatus been marking time for so long? I wanted to ask First Deputy Minister V. Papanov, whose brief is to monitor restructuring in accordance with the new administrative system. However, Vladimir Kuzmich essentially declined to answer the question, citing the fact that he had not been working at the ministry for long. I had to approach the leader of the sector—Minister N. Panichev. In his opinion, the situation does not merit criticism. A quest for an ideal structure is under way and the structural transformations will be completed on time—before 1 April. I asked the minister:

"As far as I am aware, around another 160 jobs will have to be cut. But people still do not know where they will be working after 1 April. This uncertainty is keeping the headquarters apparatus in a constant state of tension and can in no way be conducive to successful work."

"It is a natural process," Nikolay Aleksandrovich said. "I see no problems here. Go to any ministry. Things are the same everywhere."

With regard to other ministries Nikolay Aleksandrovich may be right, it is only a pity that he does not see this as a problem. It is a problem—and a tremendously acute one! The new economically accountable administrative mechanism is having teething troubles. Under these conditions enterprises encountering a mass of issues, questions, and problems need their confusion to be particularly attentively, democratically, and constructively examined and their misunderstandings to be swiftly resolved. However, it will be hard to count on such aid until the suitcase sentiments at ministry apparatuses have been overcome.

Glasnost as Key to Improved National Relations

PM100925 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88 p 2

[Commentary on readers' mail by Viktor Avotinsh, executive secretary of the magazine DAUGAVA, under the "Food for Thought" rubric: "Dignity Presupposes Respect Not Only for Yourself and Your Own People But Also for People of Other Nationalities"]

[Text] Riga—I was shown a considerable number of letters concerning relations between nationalities in Latvia, although not there alone, at KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's office. That is what has prompted me to write.

Let us first look at the concept of "internationalism," which has become somewhat restricted in range in past years. Instead of a symphony orchestra, at times we have heard only the string players or even just the percussionists. Judging by the letters, most unfavorable opinions of, say, the Latvians, are produced by tourist trips, insults suffered by vacationers, and the hostility shown to people who are passing through by sales assistants.... However, I cannot say that the assertion that "Latvians, while both civilized and thrifty, are just inhospitable to their Eastern brothers" (the Presnyakov family) has no basis.

Yet the letters in which writers talk about the influence of the culture of another people on their life, when "experience has been gained in joint labor, risk, and martial exploits" (M. Shashelev) and when people have had to "sort out the good from the bad" (O. Pavlova), go much deeper. Such letters contain, as a rule, two contrary questions: A general one—"How are we better?"—and a specific one—"Why leave your homeland?"

That sums up the mailbag on the whole. I have no pat answer to Svetlana, who asks advice in her letter to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA as to whether she should go to Latvia. It depends more on Svetlana's own personal inclination and the opportunities available to her than on the Latvians taken as a whole.

S. Felor from Krasnodar is convinced that "nationalism is bred by people who are uneducated, malicious, uncreative, and ignorant." I have done a good deal of traveling on foot in various parts and have found myself in tough and sometimes even brutal situations. But it has never entered my head to blame an entire people. I see no spiritual basis for nationalism in my own, Latvian people. Nationalism or chauvinism is the "patriotism of ignorance," as far as I am concerned.

Like Fedor S. from Krasnodar, I think that a spiritually rich, decent person will not descend to chauvinism or nationalism. I see the fact that some kind of "average" man served for a very long time as the model for Soviet man as one cause of nationalist feelings. The concepts of what is civic and what is personal changed and shifted away from each another. Enthusiasm to get things done was mostly welcomed. Initiative, however, was often subjected to arbitrary pressure. Patriotic impulses were left for shock construction projects and crash work.

But people not only constructed the Baykal-Amur Railroad, they raised herds on ailing farms, tended orchards in the non-Chernozem Zone, rescued wooden churches in the north, and taught in small schools in Latgale that are being destroyed.

Self-awareness and awareness of one's genesis and origins proved at best a vague abstraction. At worst, the concept of the people was identified with the needs of one's own ego. The man in the crowd was ripe for exploitation of national feelings. But people sought to idealize the situation in an authoritarian way. Authoritarianism is, in my opinion, closely related to nationalism and ignorance. So is it surprising that when democracy is developed feelings and attitudes which have not received consistent, sensible development show themselves in their "primitive" state?!

It is naive to take nationalist or chauvinist manifestations at their ideological "face value." They are rather a denominator to which, when convenient, quite heterogeneous entities—frustrated spiritual energy, economic disorders, bureaucracy, verbiage, supply shortages, the lack of a social goal, and so forth—are reduced. Unfortunately, there are still officials who benefit from not revealing what really underlies particular manifestations; they prefer to declare them, without evidence, to be "nationalist." These officials are neither Russians nor Latvians but "officials," period.

The fact that there was virtually no history of the Latvian SSR in schools for many years—only isolated, abstract, sometimes half-true fragments of it were taught—has also played its part. This applies particularly to the first decade of Soviet power in Latvia. Reliable, intelligent history books, lectures, and open discussion are needed. But I think that the everyday personal example of human contact, particularly on the part of those who educate and organize, is the most effective and international form of education.

Glasnost demands quite a different standard of culture compared with previous ones, which oversimplified reality. Glasnost exposes stagnation. Here are just a few quotations from letters which I was shown at KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

"Latvia and the whole Baltic region constitute a small capitalist country within the USSR."

(R.V.)

"Russians are not, of course, knifed or shot now, but many people who have not become Russianized do not treat you in the best way. The reason is your great-power expansion. The Russians, even 70 years after the revolution, have not lost their imperial feelings."

(Anonymous)

I consider it beneath my dignity to have to swear that the Baltic republics are also part of the USSR rather than located "to the west of the USSR." And the fact that the Latvians who can generally speak Russian quite well are "never able to lose their damned accent" is not the result of hostility to other peoples but merely for the same reason that Russians speak English or Spanish with an accent. In Riga we do have gateways daubed with nationalist obscenities. Clashes among teenagers occur. The perpetrators of these acts are mostly people who are incapable of explaining their actions, let alone answering for them, because of their age, position, and lack of

firm, well founded convictions. It is no more than a "prestigious" form of hooliganism. But even if you ask the brainiest amongst them how, in view of the actual situation, they intend to remove what they don't like, it turns out that they expect the efforts to change what is bad to come from that very same Soviet authority. This is essentially an attempt by philistinism to manifest itself politically. We still have quite a battle to fight against our Soviet—Latvian, Russian, and other—forms of philistinism and petty bourgeois dirty tricks. The combat against the ideological opponent is a struggle between forces, a struggle of alternatives. And here there are some dubious things going on. The stores run out of sausage, and the cry goes up that the Russians have carted it all off to Moscow or that the Latvians are sabotaging all the enterprises. Every fight among hooligans is turned into a struggle between the peoples.

It has to be said that such situations have not always received due evaluation. Some people were therefore able to do very well for themselves out of exploiting national relations. Your son gets a "satisfactory" or even a "good" instead of the deserved "poor" if the schoolteacher is the "wrong" nationality. It was even possible to describe public opinion as a nationalist lament for the silver birches when it rose up against the construction of the Daugavpils GES. All this is the direct cause of the "campaigns" which are so dear to the heart of the leaders of Western radio stations.

I have been a Komsomol worker for the last 10 years. I have often worked on "crash jobs." A pressing problem would arise and immediately there would be a whole host of actions, articles, and measures. The "crash job" was then forgotten, its causes were not analyzed, nothing was done to affect them, and the next "crash job" was awaited. But ideological rush work is still alive and well today. Nationalist demonstrations have been followed by meetings in labor collectives and schools in the republic. I would say that these have often been prepared in the old way and thus in labor collectives people have essentially gotten away with simply staging an event for the raykom's benefit, and in schools the international education lesson has taken the form of scaring the pupils.

In my opinion, a number of problems caused by centralization have accumulated in the republic, which threatened not only to take away people's sense of initiative but also contained the possibility of shifting the responsibility for decisions and the result of work to people higher up. Inconsistency took its toll here too. The cultural requirements of the streams of immigrants to the republic were poorly satisfied. Should those people establish and renew their people's traditions each for themselves, independently, or should this take place with the qualitative and sensible assistance of the authorities? From the purely administrative point of view these people were seen more as manpower than as representatives of a particular people.

However, questions of internationalism in the republic are still often discussed merely as the development of relations between Russians and Latvians. But there are too many Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, and Estonians among us to ignore their sense of national identity and culture here among the Latvians.

Vera Vladimirovna Abibulayeva writes to the editorial office: "For many years we adults lied to ourselves and to you when we forgot the history of society and of relations between the nations, we lived from one slogan to the next and endlessly covered our tracks to make sure that the facts did not get out. A disgusting view was cultivated: I am only a little man." I approve of such self-criticism but self-chastisement is merely a "means of assessment" and not an action. It is hardly worth trying to make young people assume the role of prosecutor. That is the way to lose self respect and to repeat history. Yes, in the main young people reduce things to conflicts in international relations.

In the young person's mind, training shoes, sex, the family, drinking companions, socialism, "heavy metal," and peace are sometimes "all on the same level" and are distinguished merely by the amount of "kicks" you get and how fashionable these things are and only accidentally by their degree of spirituality. Of course, this does not apply to all young people, but do the young have the cultural means to express themselves adequately? The more conservative the environment is toward young people, the more aggressively their complexes are displayed. M. Sergeyev, a worker from the Urals, recalls that "...internationalism means a link between the peoples." This is more complex than simply moving from point A to point B. There are matters which occupy several generations. The establishment of traditions, for example. How can you leave it to your parents and their parents before them to show concern for the part of the motherland in which we live and where we become what we are?

Relations between nations are part of human relationships. I have no miracle cures for establishing harmony in them. If the ideas of democratization are given form and if democracy and glasnost are not reduced to bureaucratic and localistic variations, then almost all the arguments used by people with a nationalist bias disappear. As for each of us—Russian or Latvian—taken individually, we must strive to be worthy of our peoples.

Foreign Policy Journal's New Editor Interviewed

PM071631 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with B. Pyadyshev, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium and new chief editor of MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN, by A. Kuvshinnikov: "Journal's Cover the Same, Contents Changed"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] The March issue of the journal MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN is unusual. Beneath the usual cover there is an unusually diverse selection of items. The

main surprise is the absence of "diplomatic" roundedness of wordings and positions, and a trenchant polemical style.

Over a period of more than 3 decades, B. Pyadyshev, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium and the new chief editor of MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN, recounts, the journal has established itself as a respectable foreign policy publication. But in recent years the print run has fallen by half.

For this reason it is time for an overhaul. We see among our readers, above all, those who are to a greater or lesser degree themselves participating in shaping and carrying out the foreign policy course. This means that the articles published must satisfy their far from casual interest, anticipate their present understanding and the state of affairs, and indicate the alternatives and the opportunities for further diplomatic action. In other words, to give the readers the opportunity to look beyond the horizon, so to speak.

I am confident that a wider readership will be attracted by articles that have been expounded in a professional manner, where issues are posed in an unusual way, and by authors' deliberations over one stance or another.

[Kuvshinnikov] In other words, the journal's publisher wants to have an exposition of alternative foreign policy research, to carry the discussion beyond the framework of what is purely official, to extend the range of participants of this discussion, and to create a base for option planning [raznovariantnoye planirovaniye]?

[Pyadyshev] The journal is a foreign ministry organ, and this in itself presupposes an essential strictness in the exposition of material. But debate is not alien to the foreign ministry. Moreover, it is encouraged and welcomed—on a scientific basis and without excessive sensationalism. In this sense your words about options are correct.

[Kuvshinnikov] Diplomacy is basically a historical discipline. Recently the little known pages of the very recent past are being opened more frequently, which sometimes shifts the accent in our assessments of people and events. Does the journal intend to get involved in this process?

[Pyadyshev] In March it will be 70 years since the Brest peace treaty was concluded. An article will be published in the journal's third issue containing a fresh look at the dramatic events of that time. We intend to focus also on other key events in the history of Soviet foreign policy and diplomacy. We shall recall topics which have almost been forgotten and which have been hushed up.

For example, an article has been prepared on the 1921 Riga Peace Treaty with which the civil war and foreign intervention ended and through which the west Ukraine and west Belorussia were separated off from us. We shall examine topics connected with the organization of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and with its work in the prewar years. Or the very distant past—how Russian Alaska was sold to the United States. There are many rumors and gossip about this event. We intend to provide a strictly historical article and chronicle of events of the day when the fate of Russian America was decided. It is time to look back. It is time to look ahead.

Economic

Reduction in Personnel Numbers Viewed

LD131210 Moscow TASS in English 1159 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—A reduction of the excessively inflated administrative machinery in the Soviet Union is becoming a reality, Professor Boris Milner of the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR points out in the Moscow-based weekly ARGUMENTS AND FACTS.

Recalling that this country has more than 800 all-union and republican ministries and departments, nearly 14 million members of the administrative personnel, Milner recognizes that "even for such a vast state as ours these are immense figures". The personnel of the ministries and departments is expected to be reduced by a third on an average. In Moscow alone nearly 100,000 members of the administrative personnel will be relieved of their jobs and be given jobs in other fields of activities.

The number of the personnel at an enterprise, whether this number should be larger or smaller should be dictated by the specific conditions and interests of the economy. The machinery should be cheap and flexible. Now this is all in the hands of the managers, in the hands of the councils of the work collectives, Professor Milner emphasizes.

Automotive Foreign Joint Ventures Planned

LD112228 Moscow TASS in English 1637 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Enterprises of the motor industry actively participate in establishing joint ventures both in the USSR and abroad, Aleksandr Zvyagintsev, deputy director general of the Soviet Association Avtoexport, told TASS. This new form of work will enable the industry to meet better and quicker its requirements in technology and ready-made products.

One of the pressing problems facing the industry is computerization of auto-building. On joining founders of the recently established Soviet-American enterprise to put out personal computers, the ministry will be, at the same time, one of the main consumers of its products.

A chance for investing free financial funds for getting a share of profits from a joint enterprise is another impetus (important under the conditions of cost-accounting) for establishing joint ventures. The USSR Ministry of

the Motor Industry is engaged in talks on purchasing shares of several companies operating on the world market, which produce motor vehicles and equipment for auto-building.

"We see in a joint enterprise not a tribute to a current fashion," noted Aleksandr Zvyagintsev, "and not an all-purpose means for tackling economic problems but a logical development of established traditional forms of economic interaction with partners abroad, above all cooperative relations." A Soviet-Bulgarian enterprise which has started production of auto electronic systems in Plovdiv (Bulgaria), is based exactly on such principles. The USSR Ministry of the Motor Industry has invested additional funds to develop this joint venture.

Talks are now in progress between the USSR Ministry of the Motor Industry and Hungarian and Czechoslovak organizations on setting up joint ventures to manufacture machine-tools and processing centres. Establishment of joint car-hire companies of the "rent-a-car" type on the basis of Avtoexport technical centres (operating in these countries) can become a promising area of business cooperation with the same partners.

Though there are only a few projects of joint enterprises in the auto-building industry for the time being and their share in the aggregate product of the industry is small, they are aimed at producing concrete results. This work will continue, said Avtoexport deputy director general.

Agricultural

CPSU Cadre Improvement Courses End

PM101251 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 88 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Cadre Training"]

[Text] The courses for leaders of the agriculture and food industry, land reclamation and water resources, and fishing industry departments of union republic Communist Party Central Committees, and party kraykoms and obkoms have ended at the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences' Institute for Improving the Qualifications of Leading Party, Soviet, and Ideological Cadres. Current questions about the progress of restructuring, the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development, and the implementation of the Food Program in light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent party Central Committee plenums, as well as preparations for the 19th All-Union Party Conference, were discussed.

There was a comprehensive examination of measures to sharply switch the aktiv and all Communists toward the ideological content of restructuring, the implementation of radical economic reform, the democratization of all social life, and the improvement of public education in accordance with the provisions and conclusions set forth in the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, at the party Central Committee February (1988) Plenum.

The party organizations' current tasks in switching to new economic management methods, enhancing the effectiveness of the integration of agriculture, the processing industry, and the sectors which service them, and providing scientific backup for the development of the agro-industrial complex were discussed.

The problems of providing cadres for the agro-industrial complex and further democratizing management were at the center of attention.

The students were addressed by V.P. Nikonov and N.N. Slyunkov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo members and CPSU Central Committee secretaries; V.S. Murakhovskiy, USSR Council of Ministers first deputy chairman and USSR Gosagroprom chairman; USSR Ministers N.F. Vasilyev and N.I. Kotlyar; A.A. Nikonov, V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences president; Yu.I. Mordvintsev, P.Ya. Slezko, I.K. Kapustyan, G.K. Kryuchkov, M.I. Polyakov, F.P. Senko, and G.G. Seregin, deputy chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments; A.A. Obozintsev, USSR Agricultural Industrial Bank Board chairman; M.V. Ryzhikov, AUCCTU secretary; senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Gosagroprom, ministries, and departments; scientists; and journalists.

Great attention was devoted to the study of the experience of party committees' practical work in implementing the party's agrarian policy. Ye.Ye. Sokolov, Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; I.K. Polozkov, Krasnodar CPSU Kraykom first secretary; A.G. Braun, Tselinograd Kazakh Communist Party Obkom first secretary; and V.Ye. Ostrozhinskiy, Ternopol Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom first secretary, addressed these questions.

On their field trips the students familiarized themselves with the working practices of rural party committees in Brest, Moscow, Orel, and Tula Oblasts. The students met with and were addressed by Ye.S. Stroyev, Orel CPSU Obkom first secretary; Yu.I. Litvintsev, Tula CPSU Obkom first secretary; A.P. Sayenko, Brest Belorussian Communist Party Obkom second secretary; and other party, soviet, and economic leaders.

Scientific

'Molniya-1' Communications Satellite Launched

LD120826 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0755 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (TASS)—The latest "Molniya-1" communications satellite was launched in the Soviet Union on March 11, 1988. The "Molniya-1" communications satellite has the purpose of maintaining the

operations of the long-distance telephone and telegraph radio communications system, as well as transmitting USSR Central Television programs to points in the "Orbita" network.

The satellite has been put into a highly elliptical orbit with an apogee of 38,976 km in the Northern Hemisphere and a perigee of 491 km in the Southern Hemisphere. The satellite's period of revolution is 11 hours 39 minutes, and the inclination of orbit is 62.5[d]egrees.

Communications sessions via the "Molniya-1" satellite will be conducted in accordance with the planned program.

Balebanov Outlines Upcoming Space Programs
LD112204 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1912 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 11 (TANJUG)—The Soviet Union today launched eight satellites of the "Cosmos" series by one missile-carrier. All satellites have equipment for the research of space and radio-telecommunications systems for the transmission of data to earth.

According to vice-director of the Soviet Academy of Science Institute for Space Research, Vyacheslav Balebanov, the Soviet Union plans to carry out several new space research programs this year.

Most of the projects will be carried out in cooperation with other countries. The first program, in which 11 European countries and the European Agency for Space Research will take part, is to be carried out in July. The Soviet Union will in a matter of days launch two research probes to the Mars' satellite Phobos.

Towards the end of 1988, the Soviet Union, together with Poland and France, will launch the astro-physical laboratory "Gama-1", with a 1.5-tonne telescope for the research of Gama-radiation coming from space.

Another Soviet astro-physical laboratory, "Granat", will be launched this year, also. Both laboratories will be circling the earth for several years.

The Soviet Union also plans to launch its second scientific module towards the space station Mir, in which astronauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov have been doing research since last December.

Finally, the Soviet Union, along with its East European allies, will launch a series of artificial satellites aimed at researching the possibilities of using the sun's energy.

Working of 'Mir' Solar Battery Reported
LD131305 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The new section of the experimental solar battery on the orbital complex Mir has added noticeably to its electricity supplies. A Radio Moscow reporter received this information at Flight Control Center. The Soviet cosmonauts installed the new section when making their space walk at the end of February. In order to test it, the orbital complex was oriented in such a way as to have the sun shine down on the whole of the panel. The flight of Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov on the orbital complex Mir continues for about 3 months.

Petrovskiy Receives Indian Space Official
LD112232 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, received today U.R. Rao who is the chairman of the Indian Government's commission dealing with matters related to space. U.R. Rao is staying in the USSR in connection with the forthcoming launching of an Indian satellite by a Soviet booster rocket later this month.

Views on questions of bilateral cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space were exchanged during the conversation that passed in a friendly atmosphere typical of Soviet-Indian relations. The importance of developing extensive international interaction of states in outer space, including the implementation of Mikhail Gorbachev's idea to set up an international space centre for developing countries, was stressed.

CEMA Nuclear Power Chief Interviewed
LD112318 Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—"There can be no question of any Soviet monopoly on supplies of equipment for nuclear power stations to countries grouped in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)," Vsevolod Tolpygo, head of the Department of Electric Energy and Nuclear Power at the CMEA Secretariat, has told TASS.

He was asked to comment on THE WASHINGTON POST allegations about that kind of monopoly.

"The American newspaper attempted to prove the charge by taking Hungary as an example.

"But for some reason it failed to note that the Hungarian nuclear power station Pacs has received its reactors from Czechoslovakia, turbines from the USSR, transportation systems from the German Democratic Republic and test and control devices from Poland.

"A significant part of the sophisticated equipment for the station has been manufactured by Hungary itself," Tolpygo said.

"THE WASHINGTON POST ought to know about the successful realization of an agreement on specialized and cooperative production arrangements in the manufacture of equipment for nuclear power stations, which was signed by the CMEA countries and Yugoslavia in 1979.

"This agreement, as a matter of fact, has now been renewed till the year 2000.

"It is under this agreement, for example, that Romania, which does not build water-moderated VVER [Vodo-Vodyanoy Energeticheskiy Reaktor, water-moderated power reactor] reactors, specializes in the manufacture of circulating pumps, emergency cooling systems and other plant and their supply to other countries.

"High-tech equipment for nuclear power stations is also produced by Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland. Czechoslovakia today can supply more than 80 percent of equipment for generating sets with VVER-type reactors," the CMEA official continued.

The Soviet Union, he said, had been the pioneer in nuclear engineering, but thanks to close cooperation and mutual assistance every CMEA member now could participate in developing the promising industry.

The CMEA countries, he added, had their own design, building and assembly organizations capable independently of handling a large amount of work involved in the construction of nuclear power stations.

In the current five-year plan period (1986-90) the CMEA countries would supply one another with several billion transferrable roubles worth of equipment for nuclear power stations, Tolpygo said.

The dozens of nuclear power generating units either already on stream or yet under construction in those countries had become truly international projects, he went on to say.

"There is no Soviet 'monopoly' on research and development either," the CMEA official stressed.

"Suffice it to say that an international group on the physics of VVER-type reactors has functioned in Budapest for 15 years now. It involves specialists from the CMEA countries and Finland."

Seeking to improve the quality of equipment, the CMEA members had set up an international information system to generalize the experience of building nuclear power stations and make recommendations on ways of upgrading various systems, Tolpygo said.

"The reliability of this equipment is indicated by this objective fact: The efficiency of nuclear power stations using VVER-type reactors is 70 to 80 percent, which is above the world average for water-cooled reactors. Such reactors suit all CMEA countries," he noted.

THE WASHINGTON POST said also that the Soviet Union used only very powerful nuclear reactors for heat supply purposes.

Commenting on the observation, Tolpygo said: "Proceeding from its requirements, the USSR has indeed designed a 300-megawatt nuclear heat supply station.

"Nobody in the world so far has designed such stations of a lesser power. And the USSR is prepared to cooperate in designing them with interested countries.

"In the meanwhile, the Soviet Union is building 500-megawatt nuclear power stations outside the cities of Gorkiy and Voronezh. The first of these will go on line in 1989 and the power industry experts then will gain the practical experience of running nuclear heat supply facilities."

Military

Defense Minister Yazov Presents Writers' Awards

PM101135 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 88 Second Edition p 1

[Our correspondent report: "Presentation of USSR Defense Ministry Prizes"]

[Text] On 5 March, Army General D.T. Yazov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and USSR defense minister, presented USSR Defense Ministry prizes and diplomas to a group of writers for fiction on heroic, patriotic themes.

The prizes awarded are as follows: Vladimir Vozovikov for the novel "Long Dawn in the Mountains," Aleksandr Prokhanov for the novel "A Tree in the Center of Kabul" and the story "The Gray-haired Soldier," the mother of the poet and soldier Lieutenant Aleksandr Stovba, awarded a posthumous prize for a book of poems entitled "The Immortal Path of A Heroic Deed," and Nikolay Cherkashin for the anthology of stories "Peaceful Sun."

The following have been awarded diplomas and valuable gifts: Gennadiy Ananyev for the novel "The Eagle's Cry," Semen Borzunov for the story "Banner Over the City," Ivan Kurchavov for the novel "Nevskaya

Dubrovka," Ibragim Kebirli for the anthology of poems "I Cannot Forget," Vladimir Plyushchev for the story "Burn, Burn My Star" ["Gori Moya Zvezda"], Yuriy Pomchenko for the novel "Commander of the Missile...," and Konstantin Tarasov for the story "Pursuit to Grunwald." Army General D.T. Yazov cordially congratulated the writers on the awards and wished them new successes in their creative work.

The following were present when the prizes were awarded: Army General P.G. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General A.D. Lizichev, Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate chief; Army General D.S. Sukhorukov, USSR depu', defense minister for cadres; M.F. Nenashev, chairman of the State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade; V.V. Karpov, USSR Writers Union Board first secretary; and Yu.N. Verchenko, M.N. Alekseyev, and A.S. Ivanov, USSR Writers Union Board secretaries.

Military District Leaders, Intelligentsia Meet

PM140941 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 88 Second Edition p 1

[Lieutenant Colonel P. Golik report: "Meeting Held"]

[Text] A meeting of the Transbaykal Military District Military Council with representatives of the creative intelligentsia of the Buryat and Yakut ASSR's and of Irkutsk and Chita Oblasts has been held in Chita.

Problems of the military-patriotic education of young people and the preparation of youths for service in the USSR Armed Forces were discussed during the meeting. The guests familiarized themselves with the life and combat training of Chita Garrison servicemen.

The writers, poets, and journalists were addressed by Colonel General A. Betekhtin, district commander, and Lieutenant General I. Solodilov, Military Council member and District Political Directorate chief.